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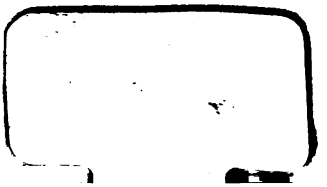
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Hale



THE

BOOK OF FLOWERS

BY

MRS. HALE.

"A flower I love,
Not for itself, but that its name is linked
With names I love.—A talisman of hope
And memory."

LONDON

SAUNDERS AND OTLEY, CONDUIT STREET.

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INTRODUCTION.

In arranging this little work, it was my purpose to combine, with the names and remembrances of Flowers, a selection of sentiments from our best Poets. I hoped my experiment would give an increased interest to botanical researches, among young people, at least; and among all classes would promote a better acquaintance with the beauties of our literature.

There is nothing new attempted, except in the arrangement, and the introduction of sentiments. Flowers have always been symbols of the affections, probably ever since our first parents tended their's in the garden of God's own planting. They seem hallowed from that association, and intended naturally to represent pure, tender, and devoted thoughts and feelings. The expression of these feelings has been, in all ages, the province of Poetry, and to the Poets we must refer, in order to settle the Philology of Flowers. This I have endeavoured to do. I have carefully searched the Poets and writers on Eastern manners, where Flowers are even now the messengers of the heart, and have selected such interpretations, (for these authorities, like other phi-

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lologists, sometimes differ,) as appeared most reasonable from the character and history of the flower.

I have given the generic and usually the specific name, also the Class, Order, and native country of each Flower. These particulars will be of some use, if the study of Botany is pursued; or, at any rate, they must associate in the mind of the reader some notion of the science. I name these things, not to swell the importance of a trifling production, but only to show that good motives may mingle a little of the useful even with trifles. If this were not often the case, life would be a sad blank, for its greatest portion is occupied about trifles. We spend our time in the invention and production of trifles, and our money and talents to procure them; and when trifles occupy so much of the grave business of society, it is excusable that they should be considered of consequence in its amusements.

Excepting the anonymous stanzas, (which were written by the Editor expressly for this work, the character of the Flowers being determined by circumstances and usages,) the authorities for the signification of each Flower are usually from established writers. The answer to any sentiment is signified by returning a part of the Flower.

This work is printed, with some modifications, from the edition published in America, where it has become extremely popular.

BOTANICAL EXPLANATIONS.

FLOWERS.

There are seven elementary parts in a flower, or, properly speaking, flower and fruit.

1. *Calyx.* The outer or lower part of the flower, generally not coloured.
2. *Corol.* The coloured blossom of the flower, within or above the calyx.
3. *Stamens.* The mealy or glutinous knobs, generally on the ends of slender filaments.
4. *Pistil.* The central organ of a flower, the base of this becomes the pericarp, or seed.
5. *Pericarp.* The covering of the seed, whether pod, shell, bag, or pulpy substance.
6. *Seed.* The essential part, containing the rudiments of a new plant.
7. *Receptacle.* The base which sustains the other six parts, being at the end of the stem.

Any accidental appendage is a nectary. The forms and positions of these organs, and of no other part, are employed in distinguishing the Classes, Orders, and genera.

Double flowers are formed by changing the stamen into petals. Botanists term these *vegetable monsters*.

INFLORESCENCE;

OR, MANNER OF FLOWERING.

1. *Whorl*—an assemblage of flowers surrounding the stem o its branches constitute a whorl, or ring: this is seen in the Min and many of the Labiate plants.

2. *Raceme*, or cluster, consists of numerous flowers each o its own stalk or pedicle, and all arranged on one common pe duncle; as a bunch of Currants.

3. *Pannicle* bears the flowers in a kind of loose subdivide bunch of cluster, without any regular order; as in the Oat. A Pannicle contracted into a compact, somewhat ovate form, as i the Lilac, is called a *Thyrse*, or bunch: a bunch of grapes is good example.

4. *Spike*. This is an assemblage of flowers arising from th sides of a common stem: the flowers are sessile; or with very short peduncles; as the Wheat and the Mullein.

5. *Umbel*—several flower stalks, of nearly equal length, spread ing out from a common centre, like the rays of an umbrella, bear ing flowers on their summits; as Fennel and Carrot.

6. *Cyme* resembles an umbel, in having its common stalks al spring from one centre, but differs in having those stalks irregu larly subdivided; as the Snowball and Elder.

7. *Corymb*, or false umbel—when the peduncles rise from dif ferent heights above the main stem; but the lower ones being longer, they form nearly a level or convex top; as the Yarrow.

8. *Panicle*—Flowers on little stalks variously inserted and subdivided, collected into a close bundle, level at the top; as the Sweet William.

Head, or tuft, has sessile flowers heaped together in a glo b form; as in the Clover.

Ament, or catkin, is an assemblage of flowers composed o scales and stamens, arranged along a common thread-like recepta cle; as in the Chesnut and Willow.

11. *Spadix* is an assemblage of flowers growing upon a com mon receptacle, and surrounded by a spatha or sheath; as in th Egyptian Lily.

CLASSES AND ORDERS.

THE explanations of these must necessarily be very brief; my aim being rather to stimulate curiosity respecting the subject of Botany than to impart instruction in the science. A few general facts and a few of the first terms are all that can be given.

Flowers in the Linnæan system are divided into *twenty-four Classes*. These *Classes* are divided into *Orders*; *Orders* into *Genera*; *Genera* into *Species*; *Species* are frequently changed into *Varieties*.

The first ten Classes are distinguished by the number of their stamens—thus,

1. *Monandria*—1 stamen—Flowering Reed is the only one of this class given.
2. *Diandria*—2 stamens—Lilac, Sage, Jasmine, &c.
3. *Triandria*—3 stamens—Crocus, Iris, &c.
4. *Tetrandria*—4 stamens—Witch-hazel, Holly, &c.
5. *Pentandria*—5 stamens—Violet, Flax, Bugloss, Bindweed, &c.
6. *Hexandria*—6 stamens—Lily, Sorrel, Rhubarb, &c.
7. *Heptandria*—7 stamens—Horse-chestnut, &c. None of this class given.
8. *Octandria*—8 stamens—Nasturtium, &c.
9. *Enneandria*—9 stamens—Laurel, &c.
10. *Decandria*—10 stamens—Rue, Pink, Hydrangea, &c.
11. *Dodecandria*—12 to 19 stamens—Mignonette, &c.
12. *Icosandria*—20 or more, standing on the calyx. Rose, &c.
13. *Polyandria*—always 20 or more, on the receptacle—Buttercup, Larkspur, Peony, &c.
14. *Didynamia*—4 stamens, 2 of them uniformly the longest—Foxglove, Balm, Thyme, &c.
15. *Tetradynamia*—6 stamens, 4 of them uniformly the longest—Gillyflower, Honesty, Queen's Rocket, &c.
16. *Monadelphia*—stamens united by their filaments in one set, anthers being separated—Geraniums, Hibiscus, &c.
17. *Diadelphia*—stamens united by their filaments in two sets—flowers *papilionaceous*, or butterfly-shaped.
18. *Polydelphia*—stamens in 2 sets, united at the bottom by the filaments—Orange, St. John's Wort, &c.

19. *Syngensia*—stamens 5, united by their anthers in one set, flowers compound—China Aster, Daisy, &c.
20. *Gynandria*—stamens stand on the germ, style, or stigma, separate from the base of the calyx and corol—Orchis, &c.
21. *Monœcia*—stamens and pistils in separate flowers on the same plant—Amaranth, Pine, Nettle, &c.
22. *Diœcia*—stamens and pistils on separate plants—Yew, &c.
23. *Polygamia*—stamens variously situated—sometimes on flowers with pistils, sometimes stamens only—Mimosa, &c.
24. *Cryptogamia*—the flowers of this class are invisible to the naked eye—Lichen, Moss, &c.

ORDERS.

THE first *thirteen Orders* are distinguished entirely by the number of *pistils*. The names of these Orders are,

Monogynia—1 pistil	Heptagynia—7
Digynia—2	Octagynia—8
Trigynia—3	Enneagynia—9
Tetragynia—4	Decagynia—10
Pentagynia—5	Dodecagynia—12
Hexagynia—6	Polyginia, many pistils

The 14th Class has 2 Orders—{ 1 Gymnospermia, seed naked. / 2 Angiospermia, seed in capsules.

15th Class—2 Orders—{ 1 Siliculosa—pod short. / 2 Siliquosa—pod long.

16, 17, 18th Classes—In these the Orders are determined from the *number* of stamens.

19. Class 5, Order 1. *Equalis*.—2. *Superflua*.—3. *Frustanea*.—4. *Necessaria*.—5. *Segregata*.

20. 21st Classes—Orders have the same *names* as the preceding *Classes*.

22d Class — has 8 Orders, the first seven named from the number of stamens—the 8th *Monodelphia*, because the stamens are united in one set.

23d Class has 5 Orders. *Monœcia*, stamens and pistils in separate flowers on the same plants. *Diœcia*—stamens, &c as different plants. *Triœcia*—on three flowers.

24th Class is divided into 6 *families*. 1. *Filices*, (Ferns.) 2. *Musci* (mosses). 3. *Hepaticæ*, (liverworts). 4. *Algæ*, (sea weeds) 5. *Lichenes*, (lichens). 6. *Fungi*, (mushrooms.)

POISONOUS PLANTS.

1. Plants with five stamens and one pistil, with a dull-coloured lurid corol, and of a nauseous sickly smell, always poisonous. As tobacco, thorn-apple, henbane, nightshade.

2. *Umbelliferous plants* of the aquatic kind and a nauseous scent are always poisonous. As water-hemlock, cow-parsley. But if the smell is pleasant and they grow in dry land, they are not poisonous. As fennel, dill, coriander.

3. Plants with *labiate* corols, and seeds in capsules, frequently poisonous. As snapdragon, foxglove.

4. Plants from which issue a *milky juice* on being broken, are poisonous unless they bear compound flowers. As milk-weed, dogbane.

5. Plants having any appendage to the calyx or corol, and eight or more stamens, generally poisonous. As columbine, nasturtium.

Plants with few stamens, not poisonous except the number be five; but, if the number be twelve or more and the smell nauseous, heavy, and sickly, the plants are generally poisonous.

THE

BOOK OF FLOWERS.

ACACIA, YELLOW.

Acacia farnesiana. Class 17; Order 10. Common around New Orleans. The same species indigenous to America and India.

CONCEALED LOVE.

Our sands are bare, but, smiling there,
The Acacia waves her yellow hair,
Lonely and sweet, nor loved the less
For flowering in the wilderness.

MOORE.

SENTIMENT.

They never felt,
Those summer flies that flit so gaily round thee,
They never felt one moment what I feel
With such a silent tenderness, and keep
So closely in my heart.

PERCIVAL.

ALMOND, FLOWERING.

Amygdalus. Class 12; Order 1. Native of the East, China, Barbary, &c. It flowers early—blossoms, snow-white.

HOPE.

The hope in dreams of a happier hour
Which alights on misery's brow
Springs out of the silvery Almond-flower,
That blooms on a leafless bough.

MOORE.

SENTIMENT.

There are hopes
Promising well, and love-touched dreams for some,
And passions, many a wild one, and fair schemes
For gold and pleasure.———
Oh, if there were not better hopes than these—
Were there no palm beyond a feverish fame—
If truth, and fervour, and devotedness,
Finding no worthy altar, must return
And die with their own fulness — if beyond
The grave there is no heaven in whose wide air
The spirit may find room, and in the love
Of whose bright habitants this lavish heart
May spend itself — what thrice-mocked fools are we!

WILLIS.

ALTHEA FRUTEX.

Hibiscus Syriacus. Class 16; Order 13. (Syrian Mallow), a shrub, four to six feet high. Native of the East. Flowers, white and rose colour.

CONSUMED BY LOVE.

The fable of Althea and her unfortunate son, who lost his life in consequence of his love for the beautiful Atalanta—his consuming away as the fatal brand was burning—suggested the emblem of "Consumed by love."

Flora's Dictionary.

SENTIMENT.

Comfort cannot soothe
The heart whose life is centred in the thought
Of happy loves, once known and still in hope,
Living with a consuming energy.

PERCIVAL.

ANSWER.

Go, kneel a worshipper at Nature's shrine!
For you her rivers flow, her hills arise;
For you her fields are green, and fair her skies:
And will you scorn them all, to pour your tame
And heartless lays of forced or fancied sighs?

DRAKE.

ALOE.

Aloe. Class 6; Order 1. Native of the Cape of Good Hope, Egypt, &c. The flower of the Aloe has no calyx. A bitter and medicinal juice is extracted from the leaves.

RELIGIOUS SUPERSTITION.

In climes beneath the solar ray,
Where beams intolerable day,
And arid plains in silence spread,
The pale green Aloe lifts its head—
The mystic branch at Moslem's door
Betokens travel long and sore
In Mecca's weary pilgrimage.

Flora's Dictionary.

SENTIMENT.

All tenderness you seemed,
Gentle and social as a playful child,
But now in lonely superstition wrapped,
As on an icy mountain-top thou sitt'st
Lonely and unapproachable, or tossed
Upon the surge of passion, like the wreck
Of some proud Tyrian in the stormy sea.

HILLHOUSE.

AMARANTH.

Amaranthus. Class 19; Order 5. (Prince's Feather), a genus of nearly forty species; almost exclusively confined to India and North America. Only three species in Europe. Flowers, crimson.

IMMORTALITY.

Immortal Amaranth! a flower which once
In Paradise, fast by the tree of life,
Began to bloom, but soon, for man's offence,
To heaven removed, where first it grew, there grows,
And flowers aloft, shading the tree of life.

MILTON.

SENTIMENT.

And with our frames do perish all our loves?
Do those who took their root and put forth buds,
And their soft leaves unfolded in the warmth
Of mutual hearts, grow up and live in beauty,
Then fade and fall, like fair unconscious flowers?

* * * * * *

A voice within us speaks that startling word,
"Man, thou shalt never die!" Celestial voices
Hymn it unto our souls: according harps,
By angel fingers touched, when the mild stars
Of morning sang together, sound forth still
The song of our great immortality.

DANA.

AMARANTH, GLOBE.

Gomphrena globosa. Class 5; Order 5. (Everlasting). Native of India. There are several varieties of this species; white, purple, and variegated. They resemble in their form heads of clover.

UNCHANGEABLE.

And hang long locks of hair and garlands bound
With Amaranth flowers—
Such flowers as in the wintry memory bloom
Of one friend left.

SOUTHEY.

SENTIMENT.

Think not, beloved, time can break
The spell around us cast:
Or absence from my bosom take
The memory of the past:
My love is not that silvery mist,
From summer blooms by sunbeams kissed,
Too fugitive to last—
A fadeless flower, it still retains
The brightness of its earlier stains.

Nor burns it like the raging fire,
In tainted breast which glows;
All wild and thorny as the brier
Without its opening rose:

A gentler, holier love is mine,
Unchangeable and firm, while thine
 Is pure as mountain snows;
Nor yet has Passion dared to breathe
A spell o'er Love's immortal wreath.

ANON.

AMARYLLIS.

Amaryllis formosissima. Class 6; Order 1. A very splendid and numerous genus, chiefly tropical, and principally indigenous to America and the Southern extremity of Africa. Flowers, deep red.

BEAUTIFUL, BUT TIMID.

When heaven's high vault condensing clouds deform,
Fair Amaryllis flies the incumbent storm,
Seeks with unsteady step the sheltered vale,
And turns her blushing beauties from the gale.

DARWIN.

SENTIMENT.

She looked, how lovely!—Not the face of heaven
In its serenest colours, nor earth in all
Its garniture of flowers, nor all that live
In the bright world of dreams, nor all the eye
Of a creative spirit meets in air,
Could in the smile and sunshine of her charms
Not feel itself o'ermastered by such rare
And perfect beauty:—Yet she bore herself
So gently, that the lily on its stalk
Bends not so easily its dewy head.

PERCIVAL.

AMBROSIA.

Ambrosia. Class 19; Order 5. (Bitter Weed). A North American genus, with the exception of one species in Peru, and another indigenous to the sea-shores of the Levant. Found in Upper Louisiana.

LOVE RETURNED.

To farthest shores the Ambrosial spirit flies,
Sweet to the world, and grateful to the skies.

POPE.

SENTIMENT.

And canst thou not accord thy heart
In unison with mine,
Whose language thou alone hast heard,
Thou only canst divine;
And wilt thou not revoke that cold
And merciless decree,
Nor yield one solitary thought,
To plead my wrongs to thee?

DAWES.

ANSWER.

Oh, knowest thou, dear one, of Woman's love,
With its faith that woes more deeply prove,
Its fondness wide as the limitless wave,
And chainless by naught but the silent grave;
With devotion as humble as that which brings
To his idol the Indian's offerings;

Yet, proud as that which the priestess feels,
When she nurses the flame of the shrine while she kneels:
Oh, knowest thou, dear, what this love may be?
Such ever has been in my heart for thee.

MRS. EMBURY.

AMERICAN STARWORT.

Aster Tradescanti. Class 19; Order 2. This genus, consisting of more than one hundred species, is almost exclusively indigenous to North America and the Cape of Good Hope. It flowers late, and the flowers are of every variety of colour.

WELCOME TO A STRANGER.

And thus do come the autumn flowers,
Lingering like exiles on their way,
And, ere they venture to our bowers,
Put on their best of bright and gay.

ANON.

SENTIMENT.

Stranger, new flowers in our vales are seen,
With a dazzling eye, and a lovely green.—
They scent the breath of the dewy morn,
They feed no worm, and they hide no thorn,
But revel and glow in our balmy air—
They are flowers which Freedom hath planted there.

This bud of welcome to thee we give—
Bid its unborn sweets in thy bosom live;
It shall charm thee from all a stranger's pain,
Reserve, suspicion, and dark disdain;
A race in its freshness and bloom are we,
Bring no cares from a worn-out world with thee.

MRS. SIGOURNEY.

ANEMONE.

Anemone virginiana. (Wind Flower). Class 13; Order 13. Principally European, but found in America. The flowers of the Anemone are of various colours—white, blue, purple, yellow, crimson, &c.

ANTICIPATION.

Beside a fading bank of snow,
A lovely Anemone blew,
Unfolding to the sun's bright glow
Its leaves of heaven's serenest hue—
'T is Spring, I cried, pale Winter 's fled,
The earliest wreath of flowers is blown,
The blossoms withered long and dead
Will soon proclaim their tyrant flown.

PERCIVAL.

SENTIMENT.

Alas! that dreams are only dreams,
That fancy cannot give
A lasting beauty to those forms
Which scarce a moment live.

Alas! that youth's fond hopes should fade,
And love be but a name,
While its rainbows, followed e'er so fast,
Are distant still the same.

DAWES.

APOCYNUM.

Apocynum hypericifolium. Class 5; Order 2. (Indian Hemp). There are several species of this genus in South America, India, and the Cape of Good Hope.

FALSEHOOD.

I bid thee of this fair smiling friend beware,
And say the false Apocynum is there.

DARWIN.

SENTIMENT.

Touch not the hand they stretch to you;
The falsely proffered cup put by;
Will you believe a coward true?
Or taste the poison-draught to die?

Their friendship is a lurking snare,
Their honour but an idle breath,
Their smile — the smile that traitors wear;
Their love is hate, their life is death.

SIMMS.

ARUM.

Arum dracontium. Class 21; Order 7. (Wake Robin). A class of about thirty species, principally indigenous to India and the warmer parts of Europe and America.

FEROCITY AND DECEIT.

Arum, that in a mantling hood conceals
Her sanguine club, and spreads her spotted leaf,
Armed with keen tortures for the unwary tongue.

GISBORNE.

SENTIMENT.

O, he 's accurst from all that 's good,
Who never knew Love's healing power;
Such sinner on his sins must brood,
And wait alone his hour.
If stranger to earth's beauty — human love,
There is no rest below, nor hope above.

DANA.

ARBOR-VITÆ.

Thuja. Class 21; Order 18. (False White Cedar). Mostly small trees. Indigenous to North America and Siberia; also found in China, Japan, and the Cape of Good Hope. The wood was formerly used in making images.

UNCHANGING FRIENDSHIP.

The true and only friend is he
Who, like the Arbor Vitæ tree,
Will bear our image on his heart.

SIR WM. JONES.

SENTIMENT.

The dim lights
Which man has set upon the way of life,
And called its pleasures, must by fiat fade,
And leave the beacon only that 's within!
O, then for quiet, or the meaner home
Where fashion reigns not, and the weary heart
Beats but to one, and answers pulse with pulse.
Then for the soul's own circle, never broken
By the rude foot that tramples on the flowers
Of all our best affections.

GRENVILLE MELLEN.

ANSWER.

Where'er thou journeyest, or whate'er thy care,
My heart shall follow, and my spirit share.

MRS. SIGOURNEY.

AURICULA, SCARLET.

Primula auricula. Class 5; Order 1. Perennial, flowering early; most of the species Alpine. Flowers, of almost every colour.

PRIDE.

Where, rayed in sparkling dust and velvet pride,
Like brilliant stars arranged in splendid row,
The proud Auriculas their lustre show.

KLEIST.

SENTIMENT.

'T is not the fairest form that holds
The mildest, purest soul within;
'T is not the richest plant that folds
The sweetest breath of fragrance in;
Then, lady, cast thy pride away,
And chase those rebel thoughts of thine;
The casket may be bright and gay,
Yet all within refuse to shine:
For should Misfortune ever lower,
'T will cloud those charms that dazzle so;
And friends who greet thy fortune's power
Will smile upon its overthrow.

DAWES.

BACHELOR'S BUTTON.

Lychnis dioica. Class 10; Order 2. Red or white Field Campion. Flowers in June.

HOPE IN LOVE.

Flora's choice Buttons of a mingled dye
Is hope — even in the depths of misery.

BROWNE.

SENTIMENT.

Never forget our loves, but always cling
To the fixed hope that there will be a time
When we can meet unfettered and be blest
With the full happiness of certain love.

PERCIVAL.

BALM.

Melissa officinalis. Class 14; Order 1. European genus, at present including only one species. In many places found in lanes, and along road-sides.

SOCIAL INTERCOURSE.

And Balm, that never ceases uttering sweets,
Goes decking the green earth with drapery.

Flora Domestica.

SENTIMENT.

Blessed we sometimes are! and I am now
Happy in quiet feelings; for the tones
Of a most pleasant company of friends
Were in my ear but now, and gentle thoughts
From spirits whose high character I know,
And I retain their influence, as the air
Retains the softness of departed day.

WILLIS.

BALSAMINE.

Balsamina impatiens. Class 5; Order 1. (Touch me not.) Stem tall and much branched. It is a native of the East Indies, China, Japan, and also of America.

IMPATIENCE.

With fierce distracted eye, Impatiens stands,
Swells her pale cheeks and brandishes her hands;
With rage and hate the astonished grove alarms,
And hurls her infants from her frantic arms.

DARWIN.

SENTIMENT.

There are some things I cannot bear,
Some looks which rouse my angry hate,
Some hearts whose love I would not share,
Till earth and heaven were desolate.
I cannot bear to be with men
Who only see my weaknesses;
Who know not what I might have been,
But scan my spirit as it is:
And when my heart would gush with feeling
To catch one kind, one sunny look,
When love would be a leaf of healing,
But scorn a thing I will not brook —
Oh, it is hard to put the heart
Alone and desolate away,
To curl the lip, in pride, and part
With the kind thoughts of yesterday.

'Tis strange they know not that the chill
Of their own looks hath made me cold;
What though my words fall seldom, still
Their own proud bearing hath controlled
My better feelings. They forget
I have a heart of kindness yet.

WILLIS.

BAY LEAF.

Laurus. Class 9; Order 1. (Bay, or Laurel tree.) According to the Greek fable, Daphne was transformed into the Laurel or Bay tree, and Apollo, her lover, crowned his head with the leaves.

I CHANGE BUT IN DYING.

Flowers seek the light their beauties to display,
The leaf will smile the same by night as day.

ANON.

SENTIMENT.

In bower and garden rich and rare
There's many a cherished flower
Whose beauty fades, whose fragrance flits,
Within the flitting hour;
Not so the simple forest leaf,
Unprized, unnoticed lying —
The same through all its little life —
It changes but in dying.

Be such, and only such, my friends,
Once mine, and mine for ever:
And here's a hand to clasp in their's
That shall desert them never.
And thou be such, my gentle love,
Time, chance, the world defying;
And take, 'tis all I have, a heart
That changes but in dying.

DOANE.

BAY WREATH.

Laurus carolinensis. Class 9; Order 1. Laurus was the ancient Latin name of the Bay-tree. There are many species of the Laurus. Found mostly within the tropics; a few in the United States.

GLORY.

The Laurel only to adorn
The conqueror and the poet.

DRAYTON.

SENTIMENT.

Ambition! ambition! I've laughed to scorn
Thy robe and thy gleaming sword;
I would follow sooner a woman's eye,
Or the spell of a gentle word.
But come with the glory of human mind,
And the light of the scholar's brow,
And my heart shall be taught forgetfulness,
And alone at thy altar bow.

WILLIS.

ANSWER.

It is wonderful
That man should hold himself so haughtily,
And talk of an immortal name, and feed
His proud ambition with such daring hopes
As creatures of a more eternal nature
Alone should form.

PERCIVAL.

BOX.

Buxus. Class 21; Order 4. The Arborescent Box grows to the height of twelve or sixteen feet. The ancients used to clip it into the shape of animals. Native of Europe and America. The Dwarf Box never rises higher than three feet. It is used to divide beds from the walks of flower-gardens.

CONSTANCY.

Though youth be past and beauty fled,
The constant heart its pledge redeems,
Like Box, that guards the flowerless bed,
And brighter from the contrast seems.

ANON.

SENTIMENT.

I have won
Thy heart, my gentle girl! but it hath been
When that soft eye was on me, and the love
I told beneath the evening influence
Shall be as constant as its gentle star.

WILLIS.

BROOM.

Genista. Class 17; Order 10. A genus of shrubs almost entirely European. There are three varieties — the yellow, violet, and white flowering.

HUMILITY.

When Dan Sol to slope his wheels began
Amid the Broom to bask him on the ground;
Where the wild thyme and chamomile are found;
There would he linger till the latent ray
Of lights sat trembling on the welkin bound.

THOMPSON.

SENTIMENT.

The rose in thy garden this morning that bloomed,
See its leaves are all faded and strewed o'er the plain,
And even the zephyr, whose breath it perfumed,
Seems sighing to say that all beauty is vain.
But there is a favour that cannot deceive,
That all may confide in to whom it is given;
And there is a beauty no time can bereave,
That perfumes with its fragrance the gardens of heaven:
'Tis the favour Humility earns from on high;
Shown to all who in virtue's fair pathway shall move:
'T is the beauty of Holiness, never to die,
But to blossom for ever in bowers above.

ANON.

BUTTERCUP. KINGCUP.

Ranunculus acris. Class 13; Order 3. An extensive genus of near ninety species, principally European. Colour of the flower yellow, generally; flowers from May till August.

RICHES.

Bright-flowing Kingcups promise future wealth —

* * * * * *

The golden Kingcup shines in the merry month of May.

SOUTHEY.

SENTIMENT.

"Money makes many friends," the proverb saith:
Had I the means of winning only one,
I'd deem myself the richest man on earth,
Nor envy even Rothschild's golden name.

S * * *.

ANSWER.

Thinkest thou the man whose mansions hold
The worldling's pride, the miser's gold,
Obtains a richer prize
Than he who, in his cot at rest,
Finds heavenly Peace a willing guest,
And bears the earnest in his breast
Of treasure in the skies?

MRS. SIGOURNEY.

CALLA ÆTHIOPICA.

Arum æthiopicum. Class 20; Order 13 A native of the Cape of Good Hope. It is a beautiful flower; calyx, white as alabaster, and has a pleasant perfume.

MAGNIFICENT BEAUTY.

Magnificent Calla, in mantle of milk.

MRS. SIGOURNEY.

SENTIMENT.

When I look
On one so fair, I must believe that Heaven
Sent her in kindness, that our hearts might waken
To their own loveliness, and lift themselves,
By such an adoration, from a dark
And grovelling world. Such beauty should be worshipped,
And not a thought of weakness or decay
Should mingle with the pure and hallowed dreams
In which it dwells before us.

PERCIVAL.

ANSWER.

How idly of the human heart we speak,
Giving it gods of clay!

WILLIS.

CALYCANTHUS.

Calycanthus floridus. Class 12; Order 5. (Carolina Allspice.) Odoriferous and spicy shrub. Flowers at first dark brown, becoming paler in drying; changing entirely to olive green, scented like ripe apples. A North American genus, with the exception of one species.

BENEVOLENCE.

The gifts of love bear golden fruits,
In usury to the giver's bosom,
As the spicy Calycanthus shoots
Its wreath of flowers from the leafy blossom.*

ANON.

SENTIMENT.

Wouldst thou from sorrow find a sweet relief,
Or is thy heart oppressed with woes untold?
Balm wouldst thou gather for corroding grief;
Pour blessings round thee like a shower of gold?
'Tis when the rose is wrapped in many a fold
Close to its heart, the worm is wasting there
Its life and beauty; not when, all unrolled,
Leaf after leaf, its bosom, rich and fair,
Breathes freely its perfumes throughout the ambient air.
Rouse to some work of high and holy love,
And thou an angel's happiness shalt know.

WILCOX.

* By cutting off the terminal leaf-buds after the usual season, a succession of flowers may be obtained throughout the summer; every leaf-bud so extracted being constantly succeeded by two flowers.—*Nuttall.*

CARNATION.

Dianthus. Class 10; Order 2. Flowers solitary, and by rich culture stamens may be mostly changed to petals.

PRIDE AND BEAUTY.

And there the beauteous Carnation stood,
With proud disdainful eye.

Zephyrus and Flora.

SENTIMENT.

She has all
That would ensure an angel's fall;
But there's a cool collected look,
As if her pulses beat by book,
A measured tone, a cold reply,
A management of voice and eye,
A calm, possessed, authentic air,
That leaves a doubt of softness there,
Till ——— look and worship as I may,
My fevered thoughts will pass away.

WILLIS.

CAMELLIA JAPONICA.

Camellia japonica. Class 16; Order 13. A lofty, large evergreen tree. Flowers, large and beautiful, in the form of a rose—exhibiting a variety of colours; but the prevailing one red. A native of China and Japan.

UNPRETENDING EXCELLENCE.

The chaste Camellia's pure and spotless bloom,
That boasts no fragrance and conceals no thorn.

ROSCOE.

SENTIMENT.

Pure-hearted, as a buried pearl
Within a crimson shell,
A soft-eyed and a radiant girl
Art thou, my Rosabelle—
Sweet beauty sleeps upon thy brow,
And floats before my eyes;
As meek and pure as doves art thou,
Or beings of the skies.

Thy mild looks are all eloquent,
Thy bright ones free and glad,
Like glances from a pleïad sent—
Thy sad ones sweetly sad—
I think of thee when daylight pours
Her glances through the sky,
And then with thee my spirit soars
Among the things on high.



Thou art an angel by my side,
To earth I bid farewell,
And every dream of pomp and pride —
To all but Rosabelle.

MORRIS.

CANTERBURY BELL.

Campanula medium. Class 5; Order 1. (Bell Flower.) A vast genus, but mostly indigenous to Europe. Only two species found in South America. Flowers, blue, purple, or white. Monopetalous.

GRATITUDE.

To me there's a tone from the blue Bell-flower,
With her blossoms so fresh when the storm is o'er,
As she thanked the sun for his beams the while —
That flower has taught me to repay
The friends who have cheered my stormy day
With a grateful brow and a sunny smile.

ANON.

SENTIMENT.

Thou 'rt like a star, for when my way was cheerless and forlorn,
And all was blackness, like the sky before a coming storm,
Thy beaming smile and words of love, thy heart of kindness free,
Illumed my path, then cheered my soul, and bade its sorrows flee.

Thou 'rt like a star — when sad and lone I wander forth to view
The lamps of night, beneath their rays my spirit's nerved anew;

And thus I love to gaze on thee, and then I think
thou 'st power
To mix the cup of joy for me, even in life's darkest
hour.

Thou 'rt like a star — whene'er mine eye is upward
turned to gaze
Upon those orbs, I mark with awe their clear celestial
blaze;
And then thou seem'st so pure, so high, so beautifully
bright,
I almost feel as if it were an angel met my sight.

Thou 'rt like a star—perchance the proud, the haughty,
pass me by,
And curl the lip, but not to them is bowed my spirit
high;
No, not to them, e'en should they wear earth's proudest
diadem.
But I would bow before thee now, and kiss thy gar-
ment's hem.

CARDINAL FLOWER.

Lobelia cardinalis. Class 5; Order 1. Flowers, bright scarlet. It is a native of North America; growing by the sides of rivers and ditches. It is a beautiful flower.

DISTINCTION.

Lobelia, attired like a queen in her pride.

MRS. SIGOURNEY.

SENTIMENT.

If this familiar spirit that communes
With your's this hour — that has the power to search
All things — but its own compass — is a spark
Struck from the burning essence of its God —
If, when these weary organs drop away,
We shall forget their uses, and commune
With angels and each other, as the stars
Mingle their light in silence and in love —
What is this fleshy fetter of a day
That we should crown it with immortal flowers!

WILLIS.

CATCHFLY.

Silene. Class 10; Order 3. There are nearly one hundred species, extending throughout Europe, and passing into Barbary, &c. One of the most splendid species, flowers bright scarlet, is found in Ohio and Lower Louisiana.

ARTIFICE, OR PRETENDED LOVE.

The fell Silene, and her sisters fair,
Skilled in destruction, spread the viscous snare.

DARWIN.

SENTIMENT.

O, I did love her dearly,
And gave her toys and rings,
And thought she meant sincerely,
When she took my pretty things:
But her heart has grown as icy
As a fountain in its fall,
And her love, that was so spicy,
It did not last at all.

I gave her once a locket,
It was filled with my own hair,
And she put it in her pocket,
With a very special care.
But a Jeweller has got it —
He offered it to me,
And another, that is not it,
Around her neck I see.

Before the gates of fashion
I daily bent my knee,
But I sought the shrine of passion,
And found my idol — thee;
Though never love intenser
Had bowed a soul before it —
Thine eye was on the censer,
And not the hand that bore it.

HOLMES.

CEDAR.

Juniperus. Class 20; Order 12. (Virginia Juniper, or Red Cedar.) Native of North America, the West India Islands, and Japan. The wood of this tree will resist the attacks of insects; it is the red cedar so much used in lead-pencils.

THINK OF ME.

The memory of our loves shall be
As changeless as the cedar tree.

ANON.

SENTIMENT.

Look to the east, when the morning is bright,
When the purple is blending with rays of rose-light!
My spirit shall then hold communion with thee,
And thy blush, bright as morning, must whisper of me.
And look to the west, when, pavilioned afar,
Sweet Love sends her smiles from her own favoured star;
And think of our friendship, as pure as star-shine,
My spirit shall then hold communion with thine;
And at midnight's deep hour, when the moon is on high,
Should the angel of sleep leave unsealed thy soft eye,
Look forth! the calm radiance is hallowed by love,
And then prayers from true hearts may mingle above.

ANON.

CHAMOMILE.

Anthemis nobilis. Class 18; Order 2. Herbaceous; one flower; rays, white or yellow; gives out a fragrant odour. A genus of about thirty-five species, almost exclusively indigenous to Europe.

ENERGY IN ADVERSITY.

Like the meek Chamomile, it grew
Luxuriant from the bruize anew.

EASTBURNE.

SENTIMENT.

I said to Sorrow's awful storm,
That beat against my breast,
Rage on — thou may'st destroy this form,
And lay it low at rest:
Yet still the spirit that now brooks
Thy tempest raging high,
Undaunted on its fury looks
With stedfast eye.

I said to Penury's meagre train,
Come on — your threats I brave;
My last poor life-drop you may drain,
And crush me to the grave:
Yet still the spirit that endures
Shall mock your force the while,
And meet each cold, cold grasp of your's
With bitter smile.

I said to cold Neglect and Scorn,
Pass on — I heed you not;
Ye may pursue me till my form
And being are forgot:
Yet still the spirit, which you see
Undaunted by your wiles,
Draws from its own nobility
Its high-born smiles.

ANON.

CHINA ASTER.

Aster chinensis. Class 19; Order 2. A very extensive genus, indigenous to America and Asia. The China Aster is the most beautiful; flowers of almost every variety of colour.

LOVE OF VARIETY.

And varied, as the Aster's flower,
The charms of beauty bless my eye.
For who would prize the coming hour,
If only like the hours gone by?

H***.

SENTIMENT.

The sleepless streams move onward
Through beds of idling lilies,
Chiding the foolish flowers
That watch their mirrored beauty.
So live the thoughtless many
Who throng the halls of fashion.

DAWES.

ANSWER.

O, we hope, and we image, through life's busy scenes,
Length of years and the bliss of enjoying;
But, alas! the dark blight of fell death intervenes,
The flower in its blossom destroying.

ANON.

CLEMATIS.

Clematis virginica. Class 13; Order 7. (Virgin's Bower.) A genus of about thirty species, distributed over the world. Flowers, white and pale blue.

MENTAL BEAUTY.

To later summer's fragrant breath
Clematis' feathery garlands dance,
And graceful there her fillets weaves.

SMITH.

SENTIMENT.

Beauty has gone, but yet her mind is still
As beautiful as ever; still the play
Of light around her lips has every charm
Of childhood in its freshness.

PERCIVAL.

ANSWER.

The days of youthful friendship,
When heart to heart is lightly bound
In rosy wreaths that bind them round,
More beautiful than strong;
And even in breaking scatter flowers,
The rapid growth of sunny hours,
That heal their wounds ere long.

But dearer things than these do lie
Within our mortal grasp — and earth
Hath not a moment, from our birth,

The cradle to the sod,
Like that, when, freed from passion's sway,
The mind rejects a feebler stay,
And rests its hopes on God.

MRS. WELLS.

COLUMBINE.

Aquilegia. Class 13; Order 5. A genus of six species: found in Siberia and Europe, and from Canada to Carolina. Flowers, red, purple, blue, white, &c.

DESERTION.

The Columbine in tawny often taken,
Is then ascribed to such as are forsaken.

BROWNE.

SENTIMENT.

How I have loved thee! O, recall
Those past delicious hours,
Which made me happy as a bird,
In its sweet home of flowers:
And thou wast all my happiness,
My love — my joy — my pride!
Thou know'st I had no other joy,
And none to love beside.
Then plighted we our nuptial troth,
That it might never change,
Through all the cares and ills of earth
That other hearts estrange.
And thus through long, long years—but why
Call back the visions flown?
They parted, as the wave glides on —
They died, as stars go down.

I will not wake those thoughts again,
The hopes like meteor-glows,
What now, alas! are all to me —
Dreams! dreams of broken vows!

MILLER.

CONVOLVULUS.

Convolvulus. Class 5; Order 1. (Bind Weed.) An extensive genus, indigenous to America, Europe, and India. Flowers, white, red, and blue.

WORTH SUSTAINED BY AFFECTION.

Flowers, shrinking from the chilly night,
Droop and shut up; but with the fair morning's touch
Rise on their stems all open and upright.

MONTAGUE.

SENTIMENT.

O! there is one affection which no stain
Of earth can ever darken; when two find,
The softer and the manlier, that a chain
Of kindred taste has fastened mind to mind;
'T is an attraction from all sense refined;
The good can only know it: 't is not blind,
As love is unto baseness; its desire
Is but with hands entwined to lift our being higher.

PERCIVAL.

COREOPSIS ARKANSA.

Coreopsis tinctoria. Class 19; Order 3. An American genus of about thirty species. Flowers in June, and continues in flower till autumn. Flowers, yellow.

ALWAYS CHEERFUL.

The Coreopsis, cheerful as the smile
That brightens on the cheek of youth, and sheds
A gladness o'er the aged.

ANON.

SENTIMENT.

The world is bright before thee,
Its summer flowers are thine,
Its calm blue sky is o'er thee,
Thy bosom pleasures shine;
And thine the sunbeam given
To nature's morning hour,
Pure, warm, as when from heaven
It burst on Eden's bower.

There is a song of sorrow,
The death-dirge of the gay,
That tells, ere dawn of morrow,
These charms may melt away;
That sun's bright beam be shaded,
That sky be blue no more,
The summer flowers be faded,
And youth's warm promise o'er.

Believe it not — though lonely
Thy evening home may be,
Though beauty's bark can only
Float on a summer's sea;
Though time thy bloom is stealing,
There's still beyond his art
The wild flower wreath of feeling,
The sunbeam of the heart.

HALLECK.

COWSLIP, AMERICAN.

Dodecatheon media. Class 5; Order 1. A beautiful flower, yellow and white. May be found from Maine to Missouri.

WINNING GRACE.

Smiled like a knot of Cowslips on the cliff.

BLAIR.

SENTIMENT.

The rose its blushes need not lend,
Nor yet the lily with them blend,
To captivate my eyes:
Give me a cheek the heart obeys,
And, sweetly mutable, displays
Its feelings as they rise;

Features, where pensive more than gay,
Save when a rising smile doth play,
The sober thoughts you see;
Eyes that all soft and tender seem,
And kind affections round them beam,
But most of all on me;

A form, though not of finest mould,
Where yet a something you behold
Unconsciously doth please;
Manners all graceful without art,
That to each look and word impart
A modesty and ease.

FRISBIE.

CROCUS.

Crocus. Class 3; Order 1. One of the earliest spring-flowers. Colours, purple, yellow, and white.

YOUTHFUL GLADNESS.

Glad as the Spring, when the first Crocus comes
To laugh amid the shower.—

MARVIN.

SENTIMENT.

Light to thy path, bright creature! I would charm
Thy being if I could, that it should be
Ever as now thou dreamest, and flow on,
Thus innocent and beautiful, to heaven.

WILLIS.

CROWN IMPERIAL.

Fritillaria imperialis. Class 6; Order 1. Indigenous to Persia and the South of Europe. Roots, bulbous; flowers, white or purplish.

PRIDE OF BIRTH.

Then heed ye not the dazzling gem
That gleams in Fritillaria's diadem.

EVANS.

SENTIMENT.

It did not need that altered look,
Nor that uplifted brow —
I had not asked thy haughty love,
Were I as proud as now.
My love was like a beating heart —
Unbidden and unstayed;
And, had I known but half its power,
I had not been betrayed.

WILLIS.

CYPRESS.

Cypressus sempervirens. Class 21; Order 16. The genus is not large, common to America and Europe; also found in Asia.

DESPAIR.

The Cypress, that darkly shades the grave,
Is sorrow that mourns its bitter lot.

PERCIVAL.

SENTIMENT.

I turn me back, and find a barren waste,
Joyless and rayless; a few spots are there
Where briefly it was granted me to taste
The tenderness of youthful love — in air
The charm is broken.

PERCIVAL.

The sick soul,
That burns with love's delusions, ever dreams
Dreading its losses. It for ever makes
A gloomy shadow gather in the skies,
And clouds the day; and, looking far beyond
The glory in its gaze, it sadly sees
Countless privations, and far-coming storms,
Shrinking from what it conjures.
——— ——— Love is a sorry slave,
And a sad master.

SIMMS.

DAFFODIL.

Narcissus major. Class 6; Order 1. It is a magnificent flower, a native of Spain. Colour, a golden yellow.

UNCERTAINTY.

Narcissus, brilliant as our hopes,
Uncertain as our date.

ANON.

Thou art now in thy morning — and thy youth
Speaks in the leaping blood that rides thy pulse,
And plants its banner on thy cheek and brow.
Young light is in thy eye and on thy heart;
Thy days are but the dawnings of new hopes,
And thy nights full of beauty! But, time — time,
That stern resolver of our warmest dreams,
Will mark thy life with passages of grief,
And deal thy portion to thee.

* * * * * *

I have seen change — though youth is on my brow,
I have seen change. I've trod the glittering way
Of the loud throng — and lived in lighted halls;
Fate, too, has called me to another scene,
And time has brought its trial. I have passed
To life's extremest quiet, and lain down
In thankfulness of spirit that my heart
Found joy in that sweet silence. I have said,

Let the world heave on in its ocean-noise,
I ask but friends and home — and if to these
Heaven add the boon of love, my lot is full,
And rapture yet may light my pilgrimage.

MELEEN.







DAHLIA.

Dahlia. Class 19; Order 2. A genus only indigenous to South America, but cultivated in Europe. Flowers, nearly as large as the China Aster.

ELEGANCE AND DIGNITY.

In queenly elegance the Dahlia stands,
And waves her coronet.

ANON.

SENTIMENT.

Thy beauty is as undenied
As the beauty of a star;
And thy heart beats just as equally,
Whate'er thy praises are;
And so long without a parallel
Thy loveliness hath shone,
That, followed like the tided moon,
Thou movest as calmly on.

WILLIS.

DAISY.

Bellis. Class 19; Order 2. A lovely little flower, common in Europe. Flowers early, colours, blue and white.

BEAUTY AND INNOCENCE.

The Daisy scattered on each mead and down,
A golden tuft within a silver crown;
Fair fall that dainty flower! and may there be
No shepherd graced that doth not honour thee!

BROWNE.

SENTIMENT.

The star that gems life's morning sky
Smiles sweetly o'er thee now;
And flowers around thy pathway lie,
And roses crown thy brow—
That shed their delicate perfume
'Mid ringlets trembling like a plume;
While a deep witchery, soft and bright,
Is floating in those eyes of light.

Pure and undimmed, thy angel smile
Is mirrored on my dreams,
Like evening's sunset-girded isle
Upon her shadowed streams:
And o'er my thoughts thy vision floats,
Like melody of spring-bird notes;

When the blue halcyon gently laves
His plumage in the flashing waves.

I cannot gaze on aught that wears
 The beauty of the skies,
Or aught that in life's valley bears
 The hues of Paradise;
I cannot look upon a star,
Or cloud that seems a seraph's car,
Or any form of purity—
Unmingled with a dream of thee.

SARGENT.

DANDELION.

Leontodon taraxacum. Class 19; Order 1. Indigenous to Europe, but naturalized in America. Blossoms early in the spring; its flowers open a little after sunrise, and close before sunset.

COQUETRY.

Thine full many a pleasing bloom
Of blossoms lost to all perfume,
Thine the Dandelion flowers,
Gilt with dew, like suns with showers.

CLARE.

SENTIMENT.

Thou delightest the cold world's gaze,
When crowned with the flower and the gem;
But thy lover's smile should be dearer praise
Than the incense thou prizest from them.

And gay is the playful tone,
As to the flattering voice thou respondest;
But, what is the praise of the cold and unknown,
To the tender blame of the fondest?

EVERETT.

ANSWER.

Cast my heart's gold into the furnace-flame,
And, if it come not thence refined and pure,
I 'll be a bankrupt to thy hope, and Heaven
Shall shut its gates on me.

MRS. SIGOURNEY.

DEW PLANT.

Mesembryanthemum. Class 12; Order 5. (Fig Marigold). Native of Greece and the East. Flowers, a rich reddish purple; it differs from the Ice Plant, in having less of the frosted appearance.

SERENADE.

And winking Mary-buds begin
To ope their golden eyes:
With every pretty thing that bin,
My lady sweet, arise,
Arise, arise!

SHAKSPEARE.

SENTIMENT.

Innocent dreams be thine! thy heart sends up
Its thoughts of purity, like pearly bells
Rising in crystal fountains. Would I were
A sound, that I might steal upon thy dreams,
And like the breathing of my flute distil
Sweetly upon thy senses.

* * * * * *

The night above thee broodeth,
Hushed and deep;
But no dark thought intrudeth
On the sleep

69

Which folds thy senses now.
Gentle spirits float around thee,
Gentle rest hath softly bound thee,
For pure art thou.

WILLIS.

EGLANTINE.

Rosa rubiginosa. Class 12; Order 13. (European Sweetbriar). Flowers, pink colour, sometimes whitish; sweet-scented.

I WOUND TO HEAL.

And the fresh Eglantine exhaled a breath,
Whose odours were of power to raise from death.

SPENCER.

SENTIMENT.

When the tree of Love is budding first,
Ere yet its leaves are green,
Ere yet by shower and sunbeam nursed
Its infant life hath been;
The wild bee's slightest touch might wring
The buds from off the tree,
As the gentle dip of the swallow's wing
Breaks the bubbles on the sea.
But when its open leaves have found
A home in the free air,
Pluck them, and there remains a wound
That ever rankles there.
The blight of hope and happiness
Is felt when fond ones part;
And the bitter tear that follows is
The life-blood of the heart.
Then crush, even in the hour of birth,
The infant buds of love,

And tread his growing fire to earth
 Ere 'tis dark in clouds above.
Cherish no more a cypress tree,
 To shade thy future years,
Nor nurse a heart-flame that may be
 Quenched only with thy tears.

HALLECK.

ELDER.

Sambucus niger. Class 5; Order 3. Indigenous to America, Europe, and India. Flowers, milk white; berries, dark purple, medicinal, and so are the leaves and bark.

COMPASSION.

The healing Elder, like Compassion mild,
Lifts her meek flowers amid the pathless wild.

ANON.

SENTIMENT.

The fields for thee have no medicinal leaf,
Nor the vexed ore a mineral of power,
And they who loved thee wait in anxious grief—

* * * * * *

Death should come
Gently to one of gentle mould like thee,
As light winds, wandering through groves of bloom,
Detach the delicate blossoms from the tree.
Close thy sweet eyes calmly and without pain,
And we will trust in God to see thee yet again.

BRYANT.

ANSWER.

My hour has come, I lay me down
With the dark grave in view:

And, hoping for a heavenly crown,
I bid the world adieu.

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I dreamed of tortures in death's hour,
Of fevered brain and limb,
And of unearthly forms that lower,
When the eye waxes dim.
My dreams in death have other moulds;
Forms beautiful and bright
Are with me.

JONES.

EVERLASTING.

Gnaphalium. Class 19; Order 2. An extensive genus, mostly indigenous to the Cape of Good Hope, but found in Europe and America. The American has white flowers.

ALWAYS REMEMBERED.

Gnaphalium, like the thoughts we love,
Can every change and season prove.

ANON.

SENTIMENT.

I think of thee, when morning springs
From sleep with plumage bathed in dew,
And, like a young bird, lifts her wings
Of gladness on the welkin blue;
And when, at noon, the breath of love
O'er flower and stream is wandering free,
And sent in music from the grove,
I think of thee — I think of thee.

I think of thee, when soft and wide
The evening spreads her robe of light,
And, like a young and timid bride,
Sits blushing in the arms of Night:
And, when the moon's sweet crescent springs
In light o'er heaven's deep waveless sea,
And stars are forth like blessed things,
I think of thee — I think of thee.

PRENTICE.

ANSWER.

I would not hush that constant theme
Of hope and reverie,
For every day and nightly dream,
Whose lights across my dark brain gleam,
Is filled with thee.

ANON.

FLAX.

Linum. Class 4; Order 5. An extensive genus—the American and European species similar. Flowers, blue; sometimes yellow.

DOMESTIC INDUSTRY.

Inventress of the woof, fair Lina flings
The flying shuttle through the dancing strings,
Inlays the broidered weft with flowery dyes.

DARWIN.

SENTIMENT.

'T is happily contrived that man is made
With tastes and powers of every varying shade,
Hence every one the other's wants subserves,
And each her own peculiar praise deserves;
As well the housewife 'neath the humble roof,
Plying the wheel, and labouring warp and woof,
As the gay charmer, mistress of the heart,
Who plays in higher life a brighter part:
But she above all competition towers,
Who adds to other gifts high mental powers—
This is the friend in all the scenes of life,
The kind companion, and the loving wife.

E. LINCOLN.

FIR.

Pinus balsamea. Class 21; Order 16. (Balm of Gilead). A genus consisting of nearly forty species, found in Europe, North America, Barbary, India, and China.

TIME.

And Fir, from which the wand of Time is framed.

ANON.

SENTIMENT.

When summer's sunny hues adorn
 Sky, forest, hill and meadow,
The foliage of the evergreen
 In contrast seems a shadow.

But when the tints of autumn have
 Their sober reign asserted,
The landscape that cold shadow shows
 Into a light converted.

Thus thoughts that frown upon our mirth
 Will smile upon our sorrow,
And many dark fears of to-day
 May be bright hopes to-morrow.

PINCKNEY.

FLOWER OF AN HOUR.

Hybiscus trionum. Class 16; Order 7. A tropical genus, chiefly found in America and India. The flowers of some are splendid.

DELICATE BEAUTY.

Why art thou doomed, sweet flower?
Is it because thy beauty is too bright
Thou hast but one short hour,
To spread thy fair leaves to the enamoured light?
'T is thus the loved and loveliest first decay—
But their remembrance may not pass away.

H***.

SENTIMENT.

The lily may die on thy cheek,
With freshness no longer adorning;
The rose that envelops its whiteness may seek
To take back her mantle of morning;
Yet still will Love's tenderness beam from thine eye,
And ask for that homage no heart can deny.

Thy dark hair may blanch where it bends
Over eyes of cerulean hue,
That melt with the softness the summer-moon lends
To mellow her pathway of blue;
Yet long will the smile that illumines thy brow
Live on as it lives in its loveliness now.

DAWES.

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ANSWER.

The spirit hath a chord that clings
To lights that fade and waste,
And places trust in fragile things
That should on God be placed.

MRS. L. P. SMITH.

FLOWERING REED.

Canna augustifolia. Class 1; Order 1. (Cane). Found in the Southern States. The Canna of Jussieu has splendid flowers; grows chiefly within the tropics.

CONFIDENCE IN HEAVEN.

First the tall Canna lifts his curled brow
Erect to heaven.

DARWIN.

SENTIMENT.

The recollection of one upward hour
Hath more in it to tranquillize and cheer
The darkness of despondency, than years
Of gaiety and pleasure.

PERCIVAL.

ANSWER.

They waken
Such thoughts as these, an energy,
A spirit, that will not be shaken
Till frail mortality shall die.
They make man nobler than his race,
And give expansion, strength, to thought;
The tears that start leave not a trace,
For they are fragrant tears, and, fraught
With soothing power, they heal and bless
Thy spirit in its loneliness.

WILLIS.

FORGET-ME-NOT.

Viola cucula. Class 5; Order 1. A species of the Violet, common to America. Colour, blue.

TRUE LOVE.

And Faith, that a thousand ills can brave,
Speaks in thy blue leaves, Forget-me-not.

PERCIVAL.

SENTIMENT.

Where flows the fountain silently,
It blooms a lovely flower,
Blue as the beauty of the sky,
It speaks, like kind fidelity,
Through fortune's sun and shower,
Forget-me-not.

'T is like thy starry eyes, more bright
Than evening's proudest star;
Like purity's own halo light,
It seems to smile upon thy sight,
And says to thee from afar—
Forget-me-not.

Each dew-drop on its morning leaves
Is eloquent as tears,

That whisper, when young Passion grieves
For one beloved afar, and weaves
His dream of hopes and fears—
Forget me not.

HALLECK.

FOXGLOVE.

Digitalis. Class 14; Order 2. A native of Europe. Flowers, crimson purple; sometimes white, or yellow.

INSINCERITY.

The hollow Foxglove nods beneath.

SMITH.

SENTIMENT.

THE LADY TO HER LOVER.

Thou art fickle as the sea, thou art wandering as the wind,
And the restless ever mounting flame is not more hard to bind.
If the tears I shed were tongues, yet all too few would be,
To tell of all the treachery that thou hast shown to me.
But it wearies me, mine enemy, that I must weep and bear
What fills thy heart with triumph, and fills my own with care.
'T was the doubt that thou wert false, that wrung my heart with pain;
But now I know thy perfidy, I shall be well again:
I would proclaim thee as thou art, but every maiden knows,
That she who chides her lover forgives him ere he goes.

BRYANT.

GERANIUM.

Pelargonium. Class 16; Order 7. A very extensive genus, principally European, but found in America and Africa. The African species is much the most beautiful and most cultivated.

GENTILITY.

And genteel Geranium,
With a leaf for all who come.

HUNT.

The characteristic of true gentility is the tact to discern the feelings of those around us, and the talent to please each one by appropriate attentions. As the Geranium offers so large a variety of species to gratify every taste, it is appropriately called genteel. I shall give the interpretations which have been affixed to a few of the species: the authority by which these have been bestowed must be in the general application of the one quoted above.

GERANIUM, NUTMEG.

Pelargonium odoratissimum. The class and order being in all the same, repetition is unnecessary. There are some differences which I shall notice. In this species the petals are sub-five-flowered; leaves, round, and very soft.

AN EXPECTED MEETING.

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SENTIMENT.

O! now 's the hour when air is sweet,
And birds are all in tune,
To seek with me the cool retreat
In bright and merry June;
When every rose-bush has a nest,
And every thorn a flower,
And every thing on earth is blest
This sweet and holy hour.
And we will wander far away
Along the flowery vale,
Where winds the brook its sparkling play,
And freshly blows the gale.

PERCIVAL.

ANSWER.

The morning hours are calm and fair,
If hearts could take their beauties in,
And free them from the misty air,
That shrouds a world of strife and sin.

MRS. L. P. SMITH.

GERANIUM, SCARLET.

Pelargonium inquinans. Umbels, many-flowered; leaves, round—reniform. Flowers, scarlet.

COMFORTING.

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SENTIMENT.

Why shouldst thou weep? Around thée glows
The purple light of youth,
And all thy looks the calm disclose
Of innocence and truth.
Nay, weep not, while thy sun shines bright,
And cloudless is thy day,
While past and present joys unite
To cheer thee on thy way;
While fond companions round thee move,
To youth and nature true,
And friends whose looks of anxious love
Thy every step pursue.

ANON.

ANSWER.

The hue of death is cast o'er every thing;
And vanity is marked on all I see!
On all!—Oh, no! One blessed sign appears!
——— ——— If Heaven will take

A heart that earth has crushed, form it anew,
And light it from on high, I offer mine,
Not without shame that all things else were
tried,
Before the only balm.

GOULD.

GERANIUM, OAK.

Pelargonium quercifolium. Umbels, sub-many-flowered. Flowers, pale blue.

TRUE FRIENDSHIP.

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SENTIMENT.

When thou art near,
The sweetest joys still sweeter seem,
The brightest hopes more bright appear,
And life is all one happy dream,
When thou art near.

SWENEY.

GERANIUM, MOURNING.

Pelargonium triste. Umbels, simple. Leaves, rough-haired, pinnate. Flowers, dark green.

DESPONDENCY.

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SENTIMENT.

Sorrow treads heavily, and leaves behind
A deep impression, e'en when she departs:
While Joy trips by with steps light as the wind,
And scarcely leaves a trace upon our hearts
Of her faint foot-falls: only this is sure,
In this world naught save misery can endure.

MRS. EMBURY.

ANSWER.

Lone Minstrel of the pensive lyre,
O! let not grief attune thy lay;
For sadness blights each holier fire,
And scatters gloom o'er all thy way.
Then, Minstrel, when thy heart is sad,
Betake thee to the flowery field,
Where beauty walks in young spring clad,
And hope and joy their influence yield.

Then, tell me, is there naught that cheers
 Amid these pure and lovely things?
No solace in this vale of tears
 From which some little comfort springs?

MISS STELLA PHELPS.

GERANIUM, ROSE.

Pelargonium capitatum. Umbels, many-flowered; stem, diffuse. Flowers, rose-scented, and coloured.

PREFERENCE.

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SENTIMENT.

I have cherished
A love for one whose beauty would have charmed
In Athens. And I know what 't is to love
A spiritual beauty, and behind the foil
Of an unblemished loveliness still find
Charms of a higher order, and a power
Deeper and more resistless. Had I found
Such thoughts and feelings, such a clear deep stream
Of mind, in one whom vulgar men had thrown
As a dull pebble from them, I had loved
Not with a love less fond, nor with a flame
Of less devotion.

PERCIVAL.

GERANIUM, LEMON.

Pelargonium acerifolium. Umbels, about five-flowered, leaves, five-lobed, palmate, serrate. Flowers, white.

TRANQUILLITY OF MIND.

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SENTIMENT.

There is a gentle element, and man
May breathe it with a calm unruffled soul,
And drink its living waters, till his heart
Is pure — and this is human happiness.

Go abroad
Upon the paths of nature, and, when all
Its voices whisper, and its silent things
Are breathing the deep beauty of the world,
Kneel at its simple altar, and the God
Who hath the living waters shall be there.

WILLIS.

GERANIUM, IVY.

Pelargonium peltatum.

BRIDAL FAVOUR.

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SENTIMENT.

I saw two clouds at morning,
Tinged with the rising sun,
And in the dawn they floated on,
And mingled into one;
I thought that morning cloud was blest,
It moved so sweetly to the west.

I saw two summer currents,
Flow smoothly to their meeting,
And join their course with silent force,
In peace each other greeting.
Calm was their course through banks of green,
While dimpling eddies played between.

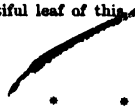
Such be your gentle motion,
Till life's last pulse shall beat;

Like summer's beam and summer's stream,
Float on in joy to meet
A calmer sea, where storms shall cease,
A purer sky, where all is peace.

BRAINARD.

GERANIUM, SILVER-LEAFED.

Pelargonium argentifolium. The beautiful leaf of this species is much admired.



RECALL.

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SENTIMENT.

My heart is with its early dream;
And vainly love's soft power
Would seek to charm that heart anew
In some unguarded hour;
I would not that the worldly ones
Should hear my frequent sigh;
The deer that bears its death-wound turns
In loneliness to die.

MRS. EMBURY.

ANSWER.

I come, I come! Why should I rove
A dreary world like this,
When a voice beloved recalls me back
To share life's all of bliss?
I come, I come! like the weary bird,
At eve to its sheltered nest;
Like the pilgrim from afar, I come
To a blessed shrine of rest.

ANON.

GILLYFLOWER.

Cheiranthus incanus. Class 15; Order 2. Found in America, Europe, and the colder parts of Asia and Africa. Flowers, bright red, purple, or white.

SHE IS FAIR.

Fair as the Gillyflower of gardens sweet.

GAY.

SENTIMENT.

Why was the sense of beauty lent to man,
The feeling of fine forms, the taste of soul,
That speaks from eye and lip, and thus will fan
Love in the young beholder?

PERCIVAL.

ANSWER.

Oh! it is worse than mockery
To list the flatterer's tone,
To lend a ready ear to thoughts,
The cheek must blush to own —
To hear the red lip whispered of,
And the flowing curl and eye
Made constant themes of eulogy,
Extravagant and high,—
And the charm of person worshipped,
In homage offered not
To the perfect charm of virtue,
And the majesty of thought.

WHITTIER.

GOLDEN ROD.

Solidago speciosa. Class 19; Order 2. The Solidago is almost exclusively a North American genus. Flowers, bright yellow. Found in all the States.

ENCOURAGEMENT.

The Golden Rod, that blossoms in the wild,
Whispers a tale of Hope to Fancy's child.

ANON.

SENTIMENT.

We met, and we drank from the crystalline well
That flows from the fountains of Science above,
On the beauties of thought we would silently dwell,
Till we looked—though we never were talking of love.

PERCIVAL.

ANSWER.

I could not bid those visions spring
Less frequently;
For each wild phantom which they bring,
Moving along on Fancy's wing,
But pictures thee.

ANON.

GRAPE, WILD.

Vitis vinifera. Class 5; Order 1. North America has many species of wild grape, though the Vinifera is not indigenous. Flowers numerous, small, green, and fragrant.

MIRTH.

Let dimpled Mirth his temples twine
With tendrils of the laughing Vine.

SCOTT.

SENTIMENT.

I heard the gushing of thy voice,
Thy laugh of happy mirth —
A bright fount in a pleasant place,
To cheer the shaded earth.
I caught the glancing of thine eye,
Its gleam of young delight —
A sunbeam on a dewy bank,
Each floweret's eye to light.
And all the poet's spell can give,
Is in this simple prayer,
That no chill wind of sorrow come
To ice the fountain there;
That no dark cloud of grief may rise
The pleasant glance to shade;
But that pure stream of joy gush on,
That sun-gleam never fade.

MILLER

GRASS.

Gramina. Class 3; Order 2. There are more than three hundred species of Grasses. They constitute, according to Linneus, about a sixth part of all the vegetables on the globe.

SUBMISSION.

Grass, according to Herodotus, was the symbol of submission, because the ancient nations of the West, to show that they confessed themselves overcome, gathered grass and presented it to the conqueror.

(See note to book four, Melpomene.)

SENTIMENT.

O, when affliction's friendly screen
Shuts out life's vain illusive scene —
When thus she seals our weary eyes
To all its glittering vanities,
A gleam of heavenly light will pour
Our dark despairing spirits o'er;
And Faith, with meek, submissive eye,
Far glancing through eternity,
Sees where the heavenly mansions rise
Of her bright home beyond the skies;
Whose golden fanes sublimely tower
High o'er the clouds that round us lower.
Then welcome sorrow's shrouding shade;
Fade! scenes of earthly pleasure, fade;
And leave me to that dawning ray
Which brightens till the "perfect day."

ANON.

HAREBELL.

Campanula rotundifolia. Class 5; Order 1. Found mostly in Europe; a few species in America. Flowers, blue and nodding.

GRIEF.

The Harebell, as with grief depressed,
Bowing her fragrance.

GISBORNE.

SENTIMENT.

Yet thou, didst thou know my fate,
Wouldst melt my tears to see;
And I, methinks, should weep the less,
Wouldst thou but weep with me.

PERCIVAL.

ANSWER.

Alas, for earthly joy, and hope, and love,
Thus stricken down, e'en in their holiest hour!
What deep, heart-wringing anguish must they prove,
Who live to weep the blasted tree or flower
Oh, woe, deep woe to earthly love's fond trust,
When all it once has worshipped lies in dust!

MRS. EMBURY.

HAWTHORN.

Crataegus. Class 12; Order 2. Principally a North American genus, but found in Europe, the Levant, and India. Flowers, scarlet.

HOPE.

And Hawthorn's early blooms appear
Like youthful hope upon life's year.

DRAYTON.

SENTIMENT.

Gay was the paradise of love he drew
And pictured in his fancy; he did dwell
Upon it till it had a life; he threw
A tint of heaven athwart it — who can tell
The yearnings of his heart, the charm, the spell,
That bound him to that vision?

PERCIVAL.

ANSWER.

Hidden, and deep, and never dry,
Or flowing, or at rest,
A living spring of hope doth lie
In every human breast.

All else may fail that soothes the heart,
All, save that fount alone;
With that and life at once we part,
For life and hope are one.

MRS. WELLS.

HEART'S EASE.

Viola tricolor. Class 5; Order 1. The genus Viola is almost equally divided between Europe and North America. Flowers, blue, purple, white, and every variety of colour.

LOVE IN IDLENESS.

This flower, as Nature's poet sweetly sings,
Was once milk-white, and Heart's Ease was its name,
Till wanton Cupid poised his roseate wings,
A vestal's sacred bosom to inflame.
Heart's Ease no more the wandering shepherd found,
No more the Nymphs its snowy form possess,
Its white now changed to purple by Love's wound,
Heart's Ease no more, 'tis "Love in Idleness."

MRS. B. R. SHERIDAN.

SENTIMENT.

As we look back through life in our moments of sadness,
How few and how brief are its gleamings of gladness;
Yet we find midst the gloom that our pathway o'er-shaded,
A few spots of sunshine — a few flowers unfaded:
And memory still hoards, as her richest of treasures,
Some moments of rapture, some exquisite pleasures.
One hour of such bliss is a life ere it closes,
'T is one drop of fragrance from thousands of roses.

WETMORE.

ANSWER.

They tell me the vision of bliss that is glinting,
My heart's star of promise in gloom will decline,
And the fair scene that Fancy, the fairy, is tinting,
Will lose all its sunny glow ere it is mine.

O, if Love and Life be but a fairy illusion,
And the cold future bright but in Fancy's young eye,
Still, still, let me live in the dreamy delusion,
And, true and unchanging, hope on till I die.

ANON.

HELIOTROPE.

Heliotropium. Class 5; Order 1. (Turnsol.) This genus is found principally in South America, a few in the South of Europe, and in India. Flowers, white, or faint purple-colour. Turns towards the sun.

DEVOTION.

Still the loved object the fond leaves pursue,
Still move their root the morning sun to view;
And in the Heliotrope the Nymph is true.

Eusden's Ovid.

SENTIMENT.

The hours of Time are flying fast,
And youthful joys will soon be past;
And scenes which now so bright appear,
Will change their hue some distant year;
And life will fade, and youth be gone,
And pleasures vanish one by one;
And Hope, that now is like a star,
May shine in dimness faint and far:
But if thy heart is virtue's shrine,
And that which charms thee is divine,
If Earth has not a cord too strong
To bind thee to its joys too long,
But all thy thoughts, refined and pure,
By Duty's bond are made secure,
And sweet Devotion led by taste,
Shall be with constancy embraced,

Then shall a holier feeling come;
To spread its sanction o'er thy home,
And age be like an autumn day,
That glides in tranquil peace away.

LEWIS.

HELLEBORE.

Helleborus niger. Class 13; Order 13. Found in the south of Europe principally. The species *Trifolius*, native of North America. Flowers, greenish.

CALUMNY.

By the witches' tower,
Where Hellebore and Hemlock seem to weave,
Round its dark vaults, a melancholy bower.

CAMPBELL.

SENTIMENT.

Curse the tongue
Whence slanderous rumour, like the adder's drop,
Distils her venom, withering friendship's faith,
Turning love's favour.

HILLHOUSE.

HOLLY.

Ilex. Class 4; Order 4. A beautiful evergreen tree, with scarlet berries; growing in Europe, Japan, and also abundantly in North America.

DOMESTIC HAPPINESS.

Gentle at home amid my friends I'd be,
Like the high leaves upon the Holly tree.

SOUTHEY.

SENTIMENT.

Oh! could I one dear being find,
And were her fate to mine but joined
By Hymen's silken tie,
To her myself, my all, I'd give,
For her alone delighted live,
For her consent to die.

Should gathering clouds our sky deform,
My arms shall shield her from the storm;
And were its fury hurled,
My bosom to its bolts I'd bare,
In her defence undaunted dare
Defy the opposing world.

Together should our prayers ascend,
Together humbly would we blend,
To praise the Almighty name;

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And when I saw her kindling eye
Beam upward to her native sky,
My soul should catch the flame.

Thus nothing should our hearts divide,
But on our years serenely glide,
And all to love be given;
And, when life's little scene was o'er,
We 'd do as here we 'd done before,
We 'd live and love in heaven.

FRISBIE.

HOLLYHOCK.

Alcea rosea. Class 16; Order 8. (Rose Mallow.) A native of China, Africa, Hindostan, Siberia, &c.

AMBITION.

Aspiring Alcea emulates the rose.

EVANS.

SENTIMENT.

Would I were in some lowly desert born,
And 'neath the sordid roof my being drew;
Were nursed by poverty the most forlorn,
And ne'er one ray of hope or pleasure knew;
Then had my soul been never taught to rise,
Then had I never dreamed of power or fame;
No pictured scene of bliss deceived my eyes,
Nor glory lighted in my breast its flame.

PERCIVAL.

ANSWER.

Yet press on!
For it shall make you mighty among men;
And, from the eyrie of your eagle thought,
Ye shall look down on monarchs. Oh! press on!
For the high ones and powerful shall come
To do you reverence; and the beautiful
Will know the purer language of your soul,
And read it like a talisman of love.
Press on! for it is god-like to unloose
The spirit, and forget yourself in thought;

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Bending a pinion for the deeper sky,
And, in the very fetters of your flesh,
Mating with the pure essence of bright heaven.
Press on! for in the grave there is no work,
And no advice — press on! while yet ye may!

WILLIS.

HONESTY.

Lunaria annua. Class 15; Order 1. (Satin Flower.) A European genus of two species only. Flowers, crimson, lilac, and whitish.

FASCINATION.

Enchanting Lunaria here lies
In sorceries excelling.

DRAYTON.

SENTIMENT.

She's beautiful! Her raven curls
Have broken hearts in envious girls—
And then they sleep in contrast so
Like raven feathers upon snow,
And bathe her neck — and shade the bright
Dark eye from which they catch the light,
As if their graceful loops were made
To keep that glorious eye in shade,
And holier make its tranquil spell,
Like waters in a shaded well.
She 's noble — noble, one to keep
Embalmed for dreams of fevered sleep.
An eye for nature — taste refined,
Perception swift — and balanced mind,
And more than all, a gift of thought
To such a spirit fineness wrought,
That on my ear her language fell
As if each word dissolved a spell.

WILLIS.

HONEY FLOWER.

Melianthus. Class 14; Order 1. Indigenous to the Cape of Good Hope. Only three species. Flowers, yellow, pink, and chocolate: nectarious.

MY LOVE IS SWEET AND SECRET.

Melianthus, with its nectar store
Hoarded for those who shall deserve the dower.

ANON.

SENTIMENT.

I found thee yet a modest flower,
An infant of the spring,
Unheeded in the rosy crowd
Of beauty blossoming;
And little didst thou think how clear
Thy spirit round me shone,
To light the inward joy of hope
My tongue could never own.

DAWES.

ANSWER.

But they say that the garland affection is wreathing
Will fade ere the morrow has wakened its bloom;
They say the wild blossoms where young Hope is breathing,
Their beauty, their fragrance, is all for the tomb.

ANON.

HONEYSUCKLE, CORAL.

Lonicera sempervirens. Class 5; Order 1. Found in Europe and the East Indies. The Wild Honeysuckle is a splendid North American genus. Flowers, white, red, scarlet, and yellow.

FIDELITY.

The Honeysuckle flower I give to thee,
And love it for my sake, my own Cyane;
It hangs upon the stem it loves, as thou
Hast clung to me in every joy and sorrow.

CORNWALL.

SENTIMENT.

I loved thee — not because thy brow
Was bright and beautiful as day,
Nor that on thy sweet lip the glow
Was joyous as yon sunny ray;
No: though I saw thee fairest far,
The sun that hid each meaner star,
Yet, 't was not this that taught me first
The love that silent tears have nursed,
And now, could ever beauty wane,
Till not one noble trace remain;
Could genius sink in dull decay,
And wisdom cease to lend her ray;

Should all that I have worshipped change,
E'en this could not my heart estrange;
Thou still wouldst be the first, the first
That taught the love sad tears have nursed.

MRS. EMBURY.

HONEYSUCKLE, WILD.

Azalea procumbens. Class 5; Order 1. This species, so much esteemed for the beauty and fragrance of its flower, exists chiefly in North America. Flowers, yellow, red, and scarlet.

INCONSTANCY.

Inconstant Honeysuckle, wherefore rove
With gadding stem about my bower?

CAREW.

SENTIMENT.

My love was centered all in thee;
With thought of thee my every hope was blended,
But, as the shadows flit along the sea,
My dreams have vanished and my vision ended:
And when thy lover leads thee to the altar,
My cheek shall never blush, nor my voice falter.

Farewell! my lip may wear a careless smile;
My words may breathe the very soul of lightness;
But the touched heart must deeply feel the while,
That life has lost a portion of its brightness:
And woman's love shall never be a chain
To bind me to its nothingness again.

SHERRY.

ANSWER.

Life hath as many farewells,
As it hath sunny hours,
And over some are scattered thorns,
And over others flowers.

MRS. L. P. SMITH.

HOUSTONIA.

Houstonia. Class 4; Order 1. (American Daisy.) Found chiefly in the United States. A delicate and pretty plant. Flowers, pale blue. Grows on a naked, slender footstalk, only a few inches in height.

CONTENT.

Sweet flower, thou tellest how hearts,
As pure and tender as thy leaf — as low
And humble as they stem, will surely know
The joy that peace imparts.

PERCIVAL.

SENTIMENT.

Blest are the pure and simple hearts,
Unconsciously refined,
By the free gifts that Heaven imparts
Through nature to the mind;
Not all the pleasures wealth can buy
Equal their happy destiny.

For them the spring unfolds her flowers,
For them the summer glows;
And autumn's gold and purple bowers,
And winter's stainless snows,
Come gifted with a charm to them,
Richer than monarch's diadem.

MRS. WELLS.

ANSWER.

Happy the life that, in a peaceful stream,
 Obscured, unnoticed, through the vale has flowed;
The heart that ne'er was charmed by fortune's gleam
 Is ever sweet contentment's blest abode.

PERCIVAL.

HYACINTH, BLUE.

Hyacinthus. Class 6; Order 1. A European genus, but cultivated in our gardens. Flowers, bell form.

CONSTANCY.

The Hyacinth's for constancy,
Wi' its unchanging blue.

BURNS.

SENTIMENT.

Woman! blest partner of our joys and woes!
Even in the darkest hour of earthly ill,
Untarnished yet, thy fond affection glows,
Throbs with each pulse, and beats with every thrill!
Bright o'er the wasted scene thou hoverest still,
Angel of comfort to the failing soul;
Undaunted by the tempest, wild and chill,
That pours its restless and disastrous roll
O'er all that blooms below, with sad and hollow howl.

When sorrow rends the heart, when feverish pain
Wrings the hot drops of anguish from the brow,
To soothe the soul, to cool the burning brain,
O! who so welcome and so prompt as thou!

The battle's hurried scene and angry glow,
The death-encircled pillow of distress,
The lonely moments of secluded woe,
Alike thy care and constancy confess,
Alike thy pitying hand, and fearless friendship bless.

YAMOYDEN.

HYACINTH, PURPLE.

Hyacinthus comosus. Class 6; Order 1. Cord, angular, cylindric at the summit sterile, long peduncles.

SORROW.

A Hyacinth lifted its purple bell
From the slender leaves around it;
It curved its cup in a flowing swell,
And a starry circle crowned it;
The deep blue tincture that robed it seemed
The gloomiest garb of sorrow,
As if on its eye no brightness beamed,
And it never in clearer moments dreamed
Of a fair and calm to-morrow.

PERCIVAL.

SENTIMENT.

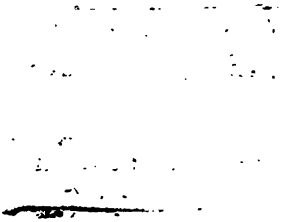
When the cold breath of sorrow is sweeping
O'er the chords of the youthful heart,
And the earnest eye, dimmed with strange weeping,
Sees the visions of fancy depart;
When the bloom of young feeling is dying,
And the heart throbs with passion's fierce strife,
When our sad days are wasted in sighing,
Who then can find sweetness in life?

MRS. EMBURY

ANSWER.

That heart, methinks,
Were of strange mould which kept no cherished print
Of earlier, happier times, when life was fresh,
And love and innocence made holyday:
or, that owned
No transient sadness, when a dream, a glimpse
Of fancy, touched past joys.

HILLHOUSE.







HYDRANGEA.

Hydrangea hortensis. Class 10; Order 2. An American genus, with the exception of one species, the *hortensis*, found in India. Flowers, rose colour; sometimes blue. It has many abortive flowers.

HEARTLESSNESS.

If thou canst search Hydrangea's flowers,
And note which first decay,
Then may'st thou judge the hollow smiles
That flatter to betray.

ANON.

SENTIMENT.

Maiden, go, if thou hast lost
All that made thee once so dear;
Let not now our parting cost
Thee a sigh, or me a tear:
Go, with Fashion's heartless train,
Go, where Wealth and Pleasure wait;
Seek them all, nor seek in vain —
Go, and leave me to my fate.

Maiden, go! — a saddened brow
Haply serves but to conceal;
Tears, methinks, are idle now,
Waste them not unless you feel;

If your bosom is too cold
 Still to prize a loyal heart,
If you value sullen gold
 More than love, 't is best we part:
Go — and when your heart has learned
 How love flies the courtly door,
Learn that true affections spurned
 Droop to death, and bloom no more.

ANON.

ICE PLANT.

Mesembryanthemum crystallinum. Class 12; Order 5. A European genus; found chiefly in Greece. Flowers, of a pale rose colour.

AN OLD BEAU.

With pellucid studs the Ice Flower gems
His rimy foliage and his candied stems.

DARWIN.

SENTIMENT.

Last days of my youth! ye are come, ye are come,
And the tints of life's morning will soon fade away;
I once vainly fancied my cheek's purple bloom,
Immortal as angels, would never decay;
Nor can I believe the cold words of my tongue,
When it falters that I am no more to be young.

No wonder! for who could unmoved bid adieu
To love's kindling raptures warm youth only knows;
And on the world's dim awful threshold to view
The opening scenes of his joys or his woes,
Who gazes—nor sighs, with a heart deeply wrung—
Why can we not always be blooming and young?

NICHOLS.

ANSWER.

Yes, the summer of life passes swiftly away,
Soon the winter of age sheds its snow on the heart;
But the warm sun of friendship that gilded youth's day
Shall still through the dark clouds a soft ray impart.

ANON.

IRIS.

Iris cristata. Order 3; Class 1. (Flower de Luce). Found in Africa, Asia, Europe, and North America. Flowers, of various colours.

MY COMPLIMENTS.

The various Iris Juno sends with haste.

OVID.

SENTIMENT.

I send this flower to one made up
 Of loveliness alone,
A woman of her gentler sex,
 The seeming paragon:
To whom the better elements
 And kindly stores have given
A form so fair that, like the air,
 'T is less of earth than heaven.

Affections are as nought to her,
 The measure of her hours;
Her feelings have the fragrancy,
 The freshness of young flowers—
O would that on the earth there moved
 Others of such a frame,
That life might be all poetry,
 And weariness a name!

PINCKNEY.

IVY.

Hedera. Class 5; Order 1. The Ivy is found in all countries, but the Hedera helix is the common European Ivy. Flowers, green; berries, globular and black.

WEDDED LOVE.

Yes, woman's love 's a holy light,
And when 't is kindled ne'er can die;
It lives, though treachery and slight
To quench its constancy may try;
Like Ivy, where to cling 't is seen,
It wears an everlasting green.

ANON.

SENTIMENT.

The Ivy round some lofty pile
Its twining tendril flings;
Though fled from thence be pleasure's smile,
It yet the fonder clings;
As lonelier still becomes the place
The warmer is its fond embrace,
More firm its verdant rings;
As if it loved its shade to rear
O'er one devoted to despair.

Thus shall my bosom cling to thine,
Unchanged by gliding years;
Through Fortune's rise, or her decline,
In sunshine, or in tears;

And, though between us oceans roll,
And rocks divide us, still my soul
 Shall feel no jealous fears:
Confiding in a heart like thine,
Love's uncontaminated shrine.

ANON.

JASMINE, WHITE.

Jasminum officinale. Class 2; Order 1. Native of India and China. Some of the genus are evergreens.

AMIABILITY.

From plants that wake while others sleep,
From timid Jasmine buds that keep
Their odours to themselves all day,
But, when the sunlight dies away,
Let their delicious secret out.

Light of the Haram.

SENTIMENT.

She
Attracts me with her gentle virtues, soft
And beautiful, and heavenly.

HILLHOUSE.

ANSWER.

Thus on the very homeliest face
Can Fancy shed her beauteous hue,
And in a tame expression trace
A smile as soft as heaven's own blue.

SARGENT.

JASMINE, YELLOW.

Bignonia sempervirens. Class 14; Order 2. Found in the East and West Indies. The plant is a shrub or tree very beautiful. Flowers, large, various colours, red, blue, yellow.

GRACE AND ELEGANCE.

Jasmines, some like silver spray,
Some like gold in the morning ray,
Fragrant stars and favourites they.

Indian Bride.

SENTIMENT.

She was not very beautiful, if it be beauty's test
To match a classic model when perfectly at rest;
And she did not look bewitchingly, if witchery it be
To have a forehead and a lip transparent as the sea.

The fashion of her gracefulness was not a followed rule,
And her effervescent sprightliness was never learnt at school.
And her words were all peculiar, like the fairies who spoke pearls,
And her tone was ever sweetest midst the cadences of girls.

Said I she was not beautiful? Her eyes upon your sight
Broke with the lambent purity of planetary light,
And an intellectual beauty, like a light within a vase,
Touched every line with glory of her animated face.

WILLIS.

JONQUIL.

Narcissus Jonquilla. Class 16; Order 1. A native of Spain. It has narrow naked leaves, and golden-coloured flowers, emitting a mild and powerful perfume.

I DESIRE A RETURN OF AFFECTION.

Sweet as perfume from Jonquil flower
That breathes in twilight grove,
Comes the remembrance of the hour
When Anna owned her love.

ANON.

SENTIMENT.

O! wilt thou go with me, love,
And seek the lonely glen?
O! wilt thou leave for me, love,
The smiles of other men?
The birds are there aye singing,
The woods are full of glee,
And Love shall there be flinging
His roses over thee.
And wilt thou go with me, dear,
And share my humble lot;
And wilt thou live with me, dear,
Within a lowly cot?

PERCIVAL.

KINGCUP.

Ranunculus. Class 3; Order 13. (Buttercup or Crowcup). An extensive genus, of near ninety species, principally European, but extending into Barbary and Siberia. Flowers, yellow.

I WISH I WAS RICH.

Bright flowing Kingcups promise future wealth.
And fairies now, no doubt unseen,
In silent revels sup:
With dew-drop bumpers toast their queen,
From crow-flowers' golden cup.

CLARE.

SENTIMENT.

O, knew I the spell of gold,
I would never poison a fresh young heart
With the taint of customs old.
I would bind no wreath to my forehead free,
In whose shadow a thought might die,
Nor drink, from the cup of revelry,
The ruin my gold would buy.
But I 'd break the fetters of care-worn things,
And be spirit and fancy free;
My mind should go up, where it longs to go,
And the limitless wind outflee.
I 'd climb to the eyries of eagle men,
Till the stars became a scroll;
And pour right on, like the even sea,
In the strength of a governed soul.

WILLIS.

ANSWER.

I would never kneel at a gilded shrine
To worship the idol gold:
I would never fetter this heart of mine
As a thing for fortune sold.

But I 'd bow to the light that God has given,
The nobler light of mind,
The only light, save that of Heaven,
That should free-will homage find.

MRS. L. P. SMITH.

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LABURNUM.

Cytisus. Class 17; Order 4. A genus of about twelve species: six of which belong to America. Flowers, purplish or yellow.

PENSIVE BEAUTY.

When the dark-leaved Laburnums drooping cluster,
Reflect athwart the stream their yellow lustre—
Like pensive Beauty at her sweet devotions.

ANON.

SENTIMENT.

Thy mild looks are all eloquent,
 Thy bright ones free and glad,
Like glances from a pleïad sent—
 Thy sad ones sweetly sad:
And, when a tear is in thine eye,
 To witch with sorrow's spell,
O, none may pass thee idly by,
 My own sweet Rosabelle!

Bright dreams attend thee, gentle one,
 The brightest and the best;
For sorrows scarce can fall upon
 A maid so purely blest.
And when death's shadows round thee swell,
 And dim thy starry eyes,
O, mayst thou be, my Rosabelle,
 A spirit of the skies!

R. MORRIS.

LADY'S SLIPPER.

Cypripedium. Class 20; Order 2. A very small genus; six species found in North America; three in Siberia; one in Japan, and one in Europe. Flowers, purplish, pink, yellow, &c.

CAPRICIOUS BEAUTY.

The Cypripedium with her changeful hues,
As she were doubtful which array to choose.

ANON.

SENTIMENT.

I love not thee—I would sooner bind
My thoughts to the open sky:
I would worship as soon a familiar star,
That is bright to every eye.
'T were to love the wind that is sweet to all—
The wave of the beautiful sea—
'T were to hope for all the light in heaven,
To hope for the love of thee.

WILLIS.

ANSWER.

I 'm weary of the crowded ball: I 'm weary of the mirth,
Which never lifts itself above the grosser things of earth.
I 'm weary of the flatterer's tone; its music is no more,
And eye and lip may answer not its meaning as before:

I 'm weary of the heartless throng, of being deemed
as one
Whose spirit kindles only in the blaze of fashion's sun.

I speak in very bitterness, for I have deeply felt
The mockery of the hollow shrine at which my spirit
knelt;
Mine is the requiem of years, in reckless folly passed,
The wail above departed hopes on a frail venture cast;
The vain regret that steals above the wreck of squan-
dered hours,
Like the sighing of the autumn wind over the faded
flowers.

WHITTIER.

LARKSPUR.

Delphinium. Class 13; Order 3. (Double-flowered). A genus almost equally divided between Siberia and the South of Europe. Naturalized in North America. Flowers, greenish, white, and pink; made double by cultivation.

HAUGHTINESS.

The Larkspur, plant of ancient name,
Advanced his haughty ensign high.

Tales of the Flowers.

SENTIMENT.

She was like
A dream of poetry, that may not be
Written or told — exceeding beautiful!
And so came worshippers; and Rank bow'd down
And breathed upon her heart, as with a breath
Of pride; and bound her forehead gorgeously
With dazzling scorn, and gave unto her step
A majesty, as if she trod the sea,
And the proud waves unbidden lifted her.

WILLIS.

LARKSPUR.

Delphinium. Class 13; Order 3. (Single-flowered). A genus almost equally divided between Siberia and the South of Europe — a few species found in America. Flowers, loosely spiked—pink colour.

FICKLENESS.

There is no truth in love:
It alters with a smile of Fortune's sun,
As flowers do change by culture.

ANON.

SENTIMENT.

I saw thee in the gay saloon
Of Fashion's glittering mart,
Where mammon buys what love deplores,
Where Nature yields to Art;
And thou wert so unlike the herd
My kindling heart despised,
I could not choose but yield that heart,
Though Love were sacrificed.

The smile which hung upon thy lips,
In transport with their tone,
The music of thy thoughts, which breathed
A magic, their's alone;
The looks which spake a soul so pure,
So innocent and gay,

Have passed, like other golden hopes
Of happiness away.

DAWES.

ANSWER.

Unhappy he, who lets a tender heart,
Bound to him by the ties of earliest love,
Fall from him by his own neglect, and die,
Because it met no kindness.

PERCIVAL.

LAUREL, AMERICAN.

Kalmia. Class 10; Order 1. A North American genus. Foliage, a deep dark green. Flowers, beautiful, crimson, red, and peach blossom colour. Species, numerous—called sometimes calico-bush.

VIRTUE MAKES HER CHARMING.

But, in thy form, thou Laurel green,
Fair Virtue's semblance soon is seen;
In life she cheers each different stage,
Spring's transient reign, and Summer's glow,
And Autumn mild, advancing slow,
And lights the eye of Age.

ANON.

SENTIMENT.

I love to look on woman when her eye
Beams with the radiant light of Charity;
I love to look on woman when her face
Glows with Religion's pure and perfect grace;
O, then to her the loveliness is given
Which thrills the heart of man like dreams of heaven!

OTIS.

LAUREL, MOUNTAIN.

Rhododendron. Class 10; Order 1. Found in North America, Siberia, Europe, and the mountains of Caucasus.

AMBITION.

The Laurel, meed of mighty conquerors,
And poets sage.

Fairy Queen.

SENTIMENT.

I loved to hear the war-horn cry,
And panted at the drum's deep roll;
And held my breath, when — flaming high —
I saw our starry banners fly,
As, challenging the haughty sky,
They went like battle o'er my soul:
For I was so ambitious then,
I burned to be the slave — of men.

* * * * * *

But I am strangely altered now:
I love no more the bugle's voice —
The rushing wave — the plunging prow —
The mountain with his clouded brow—
The thunder when the blue skies bow—

And all the sons of God rejoice —
I love to dream of tears and sighs,
And shadowy hair and half-shut eyes.

NEAL.

LAURUSTINUS.

Viburnum tinus. Class 5; Order 3. Found principally in North America and Japan—there are four species in Europe. An evergreen shrub; flowers, white; sometimes tinged with red.

A TOKEN.

A Laurustinus bear
In blossoms to my love,
Its language she will hear.

ANON. *(Flora's Dictionary.)*

SENTIMENT.

So take my gift! 't is a simple flower,
But perhaps 'twill wile a weary hour;
And the spirit that its light magic weaves
May touch your heart from its simple leaves —
And if these should fail, it at least will be
A token of love from me to thee.

WILLIS.

ANSWER.

Ye may search the earth and the shoreless deep
For the fairest things in their cells they keep;
Ye may gather the light of an Eastern mine,
And offer it up on affection's shrine;
But ye 'll never find it cherished there,
Like a simple gift, with the heart's pure prayer.

MRS. L. P. SMITH.

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LAVENDER.

Lavandula spika. Class 14; Order 1. Indigenous to Africa and Europe, but naturalized in America. Flowers, blue, purplish, and white — quite fragrant.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT.

She sent him Lavender, owning her love.

SHAKSPEARE.

SENTIMENT.

'Tis morning, yet I am not gay —
'Tis spring, and yet I only sigh —
My pleasures all are flown away —
Oh! who can tell me where or why?

It was not so before — for bright
As summer clouds were all my dreams;
No mist could hide the rosy light,
That seemed on all to pour its beams.

In autumn, when the chill winds blew,
My playmate birds all went away —
I did not weep, for well I knew
They 'd come again some happy day.

But now I 'm weary of them all,
And vaguely dream — I know not why —
Of music softer than the call
Of birds at evening whispering nigh.

ANON.

LEMON BLOSSOM.

Citrus limon. Class 13; Order 1. Native of the East, but naturalised in all warm climates. Flowers, small, white.

DISCRETION.

Meek
As woman's wisdom, their white blossoms smile,
The promise of a golden fruitage.

GISBORNE.

SENTIMENT.

How excellent is woman, when she gives
To the fine pulses of her spirit way!
Her virtues blossom daily, and pour out
A fragrance upon all who in her path
Have a blest fellowship.

WILLIS.

LICHEN.

Usnea. Class 24; Order 5. (Tall moss.) These mosses are fleshy or leather-like substances, growing on trees, and vegetating on naked rocks, drawing nourishment chiefly from the air.

SOLITUDE.

Retiring Lichen climbs the topmost stone,
And drinks the aërial solitude alone.

DARWIN.

SENTIMENT.

Alone! alone! How dread it is,
Always to be alone,
In such a depth of wilderness,
The only thinking one!
The waters in their path rejoice,
The trees together sleep —
But I have not one silver voice
Upon my ear to creep.

I 'm weary of my lonely hut,
And of its blasted tree;
The very lake is like my lot,
So silent constantly.
I 've lived amid the forest gloom
Until I almost fear —
When will the thrilling voices come
My spirit thirsts to hear!

WILLIS.

ANSWER.

There 's a blest and sacred solitude,
On which the world should never intrude,
When bright to the view fond memory brings
A vision of dear departed things:
And then, as fair as the evening star,
Comes the image of friends removed afar;
And the vision that brightens through memory's tears
In the sunshine and bustle of mirth disappears.

ANON.

LILAC, PURPLE.

Syringa. Class 2; Order 1. Indigenous to the East, the most beautiful species found in Persia. Flowers, purple or white — very fragrant.

FASTIDIOUSNESS.

The Lilac, various in array — now white,
Now sanguine, and her beauteous head now set
With purple spikes, studious of ornament;
Yet, unresolved which hue she most approved,
She chose them all.

COWPER.

SENTIMENT.

Is 't not a curse to be
Fastidiously refined?
Breathing an air whose rarity
Separates from human kind?

* * * * * *

To be the theme of fools —
The wonder of a crowd —
Thy life-blood drawn by measured rules,
Or stunned by flatterers loud?

ANON.

ANSWER.

I hate these darkened thoughts o'er things
All radiant with joy;
'T is suffering deep and still that wrings
Reflection's dark alloy.
Away with dreams !— I will not cloud
The light of brilliant smiles;
They will find too soon a shadowy shroud,
As we tread life's gloomy aisles.

MRS. L. P. SMITH.

LILAC, WHITE.

Syringa vulgaris. Class 2; Order 1. The common Lilac is a native of Persia, but naturalized in Europe and America. Flowers, purple and white.

YOUTHFUL INNOCENCE.

At call of early spring
Burst forth, in blossomed fragrance, Lilacs robed
In snow-white Innocence.

MASON.

SENTIMENT.

She had grown
In her unstained seclusion, bright and pure
As a first opening Lilac, when it spreads
Its clear leaves to the sweetest dawn of May.

* * * * * *

And she were one on whom to fix my heart,
To sit beside me when my thoughts are sad,
And by her tender playfulness impart
Some of her pure joy to me.

PERCIVAL.

ANSWER.

There is a spell in every flower,
A sweetness in each spray,
And every simple bird has power
To please me with its lay.

And there is music on the breeze
That sports along the glade;
The crystal dew-drops on the trees
Are gems by fancy made.

O, there is joy and happiness
In every thing I see,
Which bids my soul rise up and bless
The God who blesses me!

ANON.

LILY, WHITE.

Lilium candidum. Class 6; Order 1. The species Candidum is a native of Palestine — but the genus Lilium is indigenous to both hemispheres.

PURITY AND BEAUTY.

The Lily, of all the children of the spring,
The palest, fairest too, where fair ones are.

BARRY CORNWALL.

SENTIMENT.

Thine is a face to look upon and pray
That a pure spirit keep thee — I would meet
With one so gentle by the streams away,
Living with nature; keeping thy pure feet
For the unfingered moss, and for the grass
Which leaneth where the gentle waters pass.
The autumn leaves should sigh thee to thy sleep,
And the capricious April, coming on,
Awake thee like a flower, and stars should keep
A vigil o'er thee, like Endymion;
And thou for very gentleness shouldst weep
As dews of the night's quietness come down.

WILLIS.

LILY, YELLOW.

Lilium lutea. Class 6; Order 1. The Yellow Lily is a native of Persia, naturalized in Europe and America.

PLAYFUL GAIETY.

Ye well arrayed
Queen Lilies, and ye painted populace!
Who dwell in fields and lead ambrosial lives.

YOUNG.

SENTIMENT.

I met a lily in the vale,
Just opened to the morning gale,
And so I stopped to gaze;
And thou art beautiful, I said —
That lily did not hide its head,
But freely forth its odours shed,
To pay me for my praise.

* * * * * *

But Ellen, there 's a lovelier thing
Than Lily, rose, or mountain spring —
And yet it wakes my fears;
For when I praise, behold it frowns!
And when I 'd clasp, away it bounds!
And when I 'd kneel and kiss it — zounds!
I get a slap upon my ears!

ANON.

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LILY, SCARLET.

Lilium Carolinicum. Class 6; Order 1. Found in the Southern States, principally in the mountains. By cultivation it is rendered very beautiful.

HIGH-SOULED.

The wand-like Lily, which lifted up,
As a Mœnad, its radiant-coloured cup,
Till the fiery star which is in its eye
Gazed through clear dew on the tender sky.

SHELLY.

SENTIMENT.

I bring no gift of passion,
I breathe no tone of love,
But the freshness and the purity
Of a feeling far above.
I love to turn to thee, fair girl,
As one within whose heart
Earth hath no stain of vanity,
And fickleness no part.

* * * * * *

O, save to one familiar friend,
Thy heart its veil should wear,
The faithless vow be all unheard,
The flattery wasted there —

Heeding the homage of the vain,
As lightly as some star,
Whose steady radiance changes not,
Though thousands kneel afar.

WHITTIER.

LILY OF THE VALLEY.

Convallaria majalis. Class 6; Order 1. American species, is common also to Europe — two species found in Japan. Flower, generally white, variegated with green: a variety from Japan has violet-coloured flowers.

DELICATE SIMPLICITY.

The Lily, in whose snow-white bells
Simplicity delights and dwells.

BALFOUR.

SENTIMENT.

Fair girl! by whose simplicity
My spirit has been won,
From the stern earthliness of life,
As shadows flee the sun;
I turn again to think of thee,
And half deplore the thought,
That for one instant, o'er my soul,
Forgetfulness hath wrought!
I turn to that charmed hour of hope,
When first upon my view
Came the pure sunshine of thine heart,
Borne from thine eyes of blue.
'T was thy high purity of soul,
Thy thought-revealing eye,
That placed me spell-bound at thy feet,
Sweet wanderer from the sky.

CLARK.

ANSWER.

O, would that the gush of the youthful heart
Might linger in riper years!
That its simple spirit would not depart
In the hours of grief and tears!

MELLEN.

LOBELIA.

Lobelia cardinalis. Class 5; Order 1. A genus known to contain nearly one hundred species, almost peculiar to America, South Africa, and Australasia. Flowers, blue and scarlet.

MALEVOLENCE.

And fell Lobelia's suffocating breath
Loads the dark pinions of the gale with death.

DARWIN.

SENTIMENT.

Man, the foe of man,
Mars the bright work eternal Love began;
Malignant passions in his bosom burn,
And heaven's pure dews to noxious vapours turn,
As desert fountains send their waters clear
To the bright flowers that on their banks appear;
But, through foul regions, as they onward glide,
Collect dark stains, and roll a turbid tide,
So gush pure thoughts in youth's extatic glow,
Which sink, in age, to scenes of crime and woe.

LEWIS.

LOCUST.

Robinia caragana. Class 17; Order 10. (Green-leaved.) The genus is mostly indigenous to tropical America — Caragana is a North American species — and there is one in India and one in China.

AFFECTION BEYOND THE GRAVE.

The fresh boughs of the Locust tree
Do image forth his memory in my heart.

MONODY.

SENTIMENT.

We send these fond endearments o'er the grave —
Heaven would be hell if loved ones were not there,
And any spot a heaven if we could save
From every stain of earth, and thither bear
The hearts that are to us our hope and care,
The soil whereon our purest pleasures grow;
Around the quiet hearth we often share
From the quick change of thought, the tender flow
Of fondness waked by smiles, the world we love below.

PERCIVAL.

ANSWER.

Weep not for those
Who sink within the arms of death,

Ere yet the chilling wintry breath
 Of sorrow o'er them blows;
But weep for them who here remain,
The mournful heritors of pain,
Condemned to see each bright joy fade,
And mark grief's melancholy shade
 Flung o'er Hope's fairest rose.

MRS. EMBURY.

LOTOS FLOWER.

Lotos. Class 17; Order 10. Native of Egypt and India. An aquatic plant — its fruit growing from the root is good for food. Flowers, red, blue, and white.

ESTRANGED LOVE.

Lotos, the nymph, (if rural tales be true),

* * * * * *

Forsook her form; and, fixing here, became
A flowery plant, which still preserves her name.

Pope's Ovid.

SENTIMENT.

Farewell — farewell!— there is no tie,
When we are far apart,
To be, in every changing scene,
A spell upon thy heart;
It is not that the glow is less
Upon thy glorious brow,
Nor that thy voice has lost the soul
Of silvery music now.
Nor is it that a fickle heart
Another God has made,
And reared another shrine, whereon
Its votive gifts are laid.

But passion's sun at rising shone
With all its noontide power,

And called those young buds into bloom —
It withered in an hour;
Like kindlier warmth to spring flowers given
Than their own April sky,
To bid those flowerets earlier bloom,
But earlier to die.

HINDA.

LOVE LIES A-BLEEDING.

Amaranthus hypochondriachus. Class 19; Order 5. A genus of near forty species, almost exclusively confined to India and North America; three species in Europe. Flowers, purple-red — seeds, pink.

HOPELESS, NOT HEARTLESS.

Nor would I change my buried love
For any heart of living mould —
No — for I am a hero's child —
I 'll hunt my quarry in the wild;
And still my home this mansion make,
Of all unheeded and unheeding,
And cherish for my warrior's sake
The flower of "Love-lies-bleeding."

CAMPBELL.

SENTIMENT.

Though the burning tears,
Like gems, are on thy cheek —
Though the burdened heart hath sorrow,
Which the lip may never speak;
Though the memories of Hope's treacherous song,
In sad relief, are set
Against thy coming years of ill,
With all their vain regret —

Yet, in the stern morality,
Which rises from this hour,
Thou mayst gain a perfect talisman
Of a pervading power;
'T is the lesson of earth's vanity,
And as its phantoms rise
And die, like buds around the thorn,
Mayst ripen for the skies.

CLARK.

LUPINE.

Lupinus. Class 17; Order 4. Found in both Americas, the south of Europe, Egypt, and the Cape of Good Hope. It is a kind of pulse — the species cultivated for flowers are white, blue, yellow, and rose-coloured.

DEJECTION, SORROW.

The Lupines here, as evening shadows rise,
Low droop their sorrowing leaves,
And close their humid eyes.

Garland of Flora.

SENTIMENT.

O! for my bright and faded hours,
When life was like a summer stream,
On whose gay banks the virgin flowers
Blushed in the morning's rosy beam.

* * * * * *

That scene of love! — where hath it gone;
Where have its charms and beauty sped?
My hours of youth, that o'er me shone,
Where have their light and splendour fled?
Into the silent lapse of years —
And I am left on earth to mourn;
And I am left to drop my tears
O'er memory's lone and icy urn.

STAERMEISTER.

ANSWER.

Methinks, when on the languid eye
 Life's autumn scenes grow dim,
When evening shadows veil the sky,
 And pleasure's syren hymn
Grows fainter on the tuneless ear,
Like echoes from another sphere,
 Or dreams of seraphim —
It were not sad to cast away
This dull and cumbrous load of clay.

WILLIS G. CLARK.

MAGNOLIA.

Magnolia glauca. Class 13; Order 13. A genus of fifteen species, almost equally divided between the United States and China; one species in tropical America. Flowers, white, or cream colour, very fragrant and beautiful.

LOVE OF NATURE.

Immortal in bloom,
Soft waves the Magnolia its groves of perfume,
And low bends the branch with rich fruitage depressed,
All glowing like gems in the crowns of the east;
There the bright eye of nature in mild glory hovers:
'Tis the land of the sunbeam, the green isle of lovers.

YAMOYDEN.

SENTIMENT.

I know, for thou hast told me,
Thy maiden love of flowers;
Ah, those that deck thy gardens
Are pale compared with our's.
When our wide woods and mighty lawns
Bloom to the April skies,
The earth hath no more glorious sight
To show to human eyes.

Come, thou hast not forgotten
Thy pledge and promise quite,
With many blushes murmured
Beneath the evening light;

Come, the young violets crowd my door,
 Thy earliest look to win;
And at my silent window-sill
 The jessamine peeps in.
All day the red-bird warbles
 Upon the mulberry near,
And the night-sparrow trills his song
 All night with none to hear.

BRYANT.

MARIGOLD, YELLOW.

Calendula officinalis. Class 19; Order 4. Indigenous to Europe, South America, and India. The yellow flower was sacred to Venus, and highly prized by the ancients. It has been devoted by Catholics to the Virgin Mary.

SACRED AFFECTIONS.

Open afresh your round of starry folds,
Ye ardent Marigolds!
Dry up the moisture of your golden lids,
For great Apollo bids
That in these days your praises shall be sung
On many harps which he has lately strung.

KEATS.

SENTIMENT.

Come, send abroad a love for all who live;
Canst guess what deep content in turn they give?
Kind wishes and good deeds will render back
More than thou e'er canst sum. Thou 'lt nothing lack,
But say — "I 'm full!" — Where does the stream begin?
The source of outward joy lies deep within.

And if indeed 't is not the outward state,
But temper of the soul, by which we rate
Sadness or joy, then let thy bosom move
With noble thoughts, and wake thee into love.

Then let the feeling in thy breast be given
To noble ends — this, sanctified by Heaven,
And springing into life, new life imparts,
Till thy frame beats as with a thousand hearts.

DANA.

ANSWER.

Trees, and flowers, and streams,
Are social and benevolent; and he
Who oft communeth in their language pure,
Roaming among them at the close of day,
Shall find, like him who Eden's garden dressed,
His Maker there to teach his listening heart.

MRS. SIGOURNEY.

MARIGOLD, FRENCH.

Tagetes patula. Class 19; Order 2. This is a Mexican plant, and the fabulous account is, that it became stained or marked with the blood of Mexicans whom the Christian Spaniards slew. Flowers, dark red, almost purple.

JEALOUSY.

And Jealousie
That we 'ved of yelwe goldes a girlonde,
And had a cukewe sitting in her hand.

Knight's Tale.

SENTIMENT.

I know there is a rival in the case,
A very rich and very stupid fellow —

* * * * * *

Philosophy, however, is the only
Balm for the evils of this changing life;
It soothes alike the married and the lonely,
Healing the ills of maiden or of wife:
Husbands and youthful bachelors may find, too,
A solace in it when they have a mind to.

SARGENT.

ANSWER.

Ay, such is man's philosophy,
When woman is untrue;
The loss of one but teaches him
To make another do.

ANON.

MEADOW SAFFRON.

Colchicum autumnale. Class 6; Order 3. Native of Europe. Corolla, monopetalous, flowers, purple and reddish, sometimes variegated. It flowers in autumn.

I DO NOT FEAR TO GROW OLD.

Then bright from earth, amid the troubled sky,
Ascends fair Colchicum, with radiant eye,
Warms the cold bosom of the hoary year,
And lights with beauty's blaze the dusky sphere.

DARWIN.

SENTIMENT.

Lament, who will, in fruitless tears,
The speed with which our moments fly:
I sigh not over vanished years,
But watch the years that hasten by.

Why grieve that time has brought so soon
The sober age of manhood on!
As idly should I weep at noon,
To see the blush of morning gone.

True, time will sear and blanch my brow:
Well — I shall sit with aged men,
And my good glass will tell me how
A grisly beard becomes me then.

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And should no foul dishonour lie
Upon my head when I am gray,
Love yet may search my fading eye,
And smooth the path of my decay.

BRYANT.

MIGNONETTE.

Reseda odorata. Class 11; Order 3. The Reseda Odorata, Sweet Mignonette, is a native of Egypt. Flowers, very fragrant, colour, pale yellow or white.

YOUR QUALITIES SURPASS YOUR LOVELINESS.

No gorgeous flowers the meek Reseda grace,
Yet sip with eager trunk yon busy race
Her simple cup, nor heed the dazzling gem
That beams in Fritillaria's diadem.

DR. EVANS.

SENTIMENT.

She had read
Her father's well-filled library with profit,
And could talk charmingly. Then she would sing,
And play too, passably, and dance with spirit;
She sketched from nature well, and studied flowers,
Which was enough alone to love her for.
Yet she was knowing in all needlework,
And shone in dairy and in kitchen, too,
As in the parlour.

J. BARKER.

MEZEREON.

Daphne odora. Class 8; Order 1. Found in Europe and India. It has many flowers in little terminal heads, white and red; fragrant.

TIMIDITY.

In sweet Mezereon's tinctured bush,
Again revives coy Daphne's maiden blush.

EVANS.

SENTIMENT.

There was one fair girl — her glossy hair
Fell over a brow undimmed by care:
A slight rose-tinge was on her cheek —
And the light in her eye so soft and meek,
She seemed to shrink like a timid dove,
Though the voice that spoke was one of love.
Sweet one! O may thy footsteps move
Ever as lightly as now they rove;
May earth to thee whisper words of joy,
With never a frown the dream to destroy!

MRS. L. P. SMITH.

MONKSHOOD.

Aconitum napellus. Class 13; Order 2. A genus almost equally divided betwixt the alpine regions of Europe and Siberia. Flowers, blue-coloured and poisonous.

DECEIT.

Let deceit the Monkshood wear.

WIFFEN.

SENTIMENT.

Go forth again, inconstant one,
Go forth among proud fashion's throng —
May a fair sky and pleasant sun
Be thine to light thy step along;
No malison shall rest on thee,
Although that vow so soon was broken;
Yet thou shalt hear no curse from me,
No word unmanly shall be spoken:
Forget my heart, forget my lyre —
Forget them with our pleasures gone;
Kindled and quenched hath been love's fire,
Yet I forgive thee — speed thee on.

ROGERS.

ANSWER.

Inconstant! are the waters so,
That fall in showers on hill and plain,
Then, tired of what they find below,
Ride on the sunbeams back again?

Pray, are there changes in the sky,
 The winds, or in our summer weather?
In sudden change, believe me, I
 Will beat both clouds and winds together:
Nothing in air or earth may be
Fit type of my inconstancy.

ANON.

MOSS.

Lycopodium. Class 24; Order 2. There are several species of this moss, but the difference is rarely known, except by botanists. Mosses have distinct leaves and often stems. They are found in all climates.

ENNUI.

The mossy fountains and the silver shades
Delight no more.

POPE.

SENTIMENT.

I sorrow that all fair things must decay,
While time, and accident, and miseries last;
That the red rose so soon must fade away,
The white be sullied by the ruthless blast;
The pure snow turned to mud in half a day:
Even heaven's own glorious azure be o'ercast;
Imperial ermine be with dust defiled,
And China's finest crockery cracked and spoiled.

HALLECK.

MYRTLE.

Myrtus. Class 12; Order 1. Native of Europe and the East. The Myrtle was held in high estimation by the ancients. It is all beautiful — leaf, flower, and tree. Flower, white.



LOVE IN ABSENCE.

The Myrtle on thy breast or brow
Would lively hope and love avow.

WIFFEN.

SENTIMENT.

We must part awhile:
A few short months — though short, they must be long
Without thy dear society; but yet
We must endure it, and our love will be
The fonder after parting — it will grow
Intenser in our absence, and again
Burn with a tender glow when I return.
Fear not; this is my last resolve, and this
My parting token.

PERCIVAL.

NARCISSUS POETICUS.

Narcissus poeticus. Class 6; Order 1. Indigenous to Europe. Flowers, white, very large, and fragrant, with a crimson border round the nectary.

EGOTISM AND SELF-LOVE.

The pale Narcissus
Still feeds upon itself; but, newly blown,
The nymphs will pluck it from its tender stalk,
And say, "Go, fool, and to thy image talk."

LORD THURLOW.

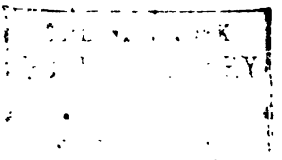
SENTIMENT.

Nature's laws must be obeyed,
And this is one she strictly laid
On every soul which she has made,
Down from our earliest mother:
Be Self your first and greatest care,
From all reproach the darling spare,
And any blame that she should bear
Put off upon another.

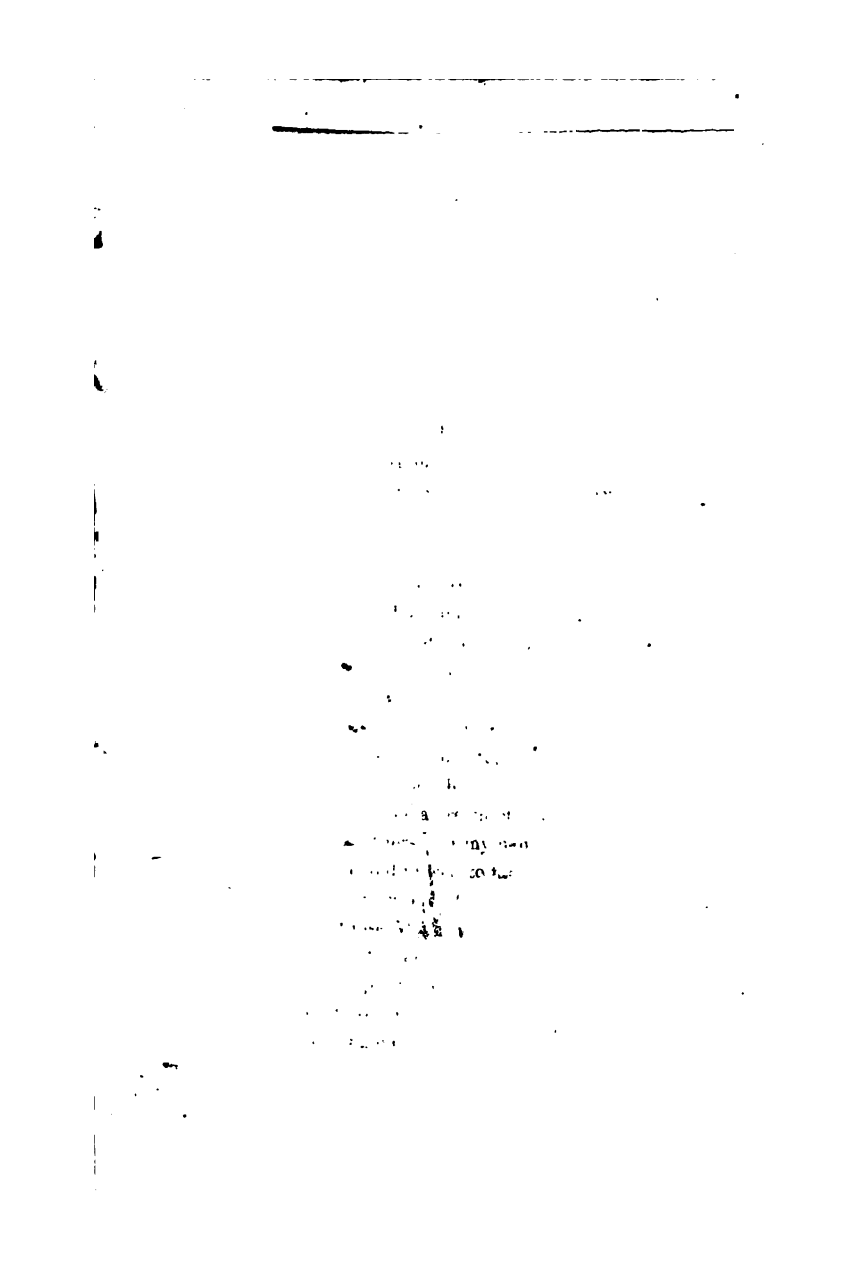
Had Nature taken a second thought,
A better precept she had taught;
And good, instead of evil, wrought
By those the power possessing!

For Self had been put out of sight,
The love of others brought to light,
In short, the wrong had all been right,
And man to man a blessing.

MISS GOULD.









NASTURTIUM.

Tropæolum majus. Class 8; Order 1. (Indian Cress). Found in Europe and the East. Flowers, a golden yellow; very brilliant. The plant is said to emit flashes of light in the morning before sunrise, and also at the twilight.

PATRIOTISM.

Bright the Nasturtium glows, and, late at eve,
Light, lambent, dances o'er its sleepless bed.

BIDLAKE.

SENTIMENT.

Land of the forest and the rock,
Of dark blue lake and mighty river—
Of mountains reared aloft, to mock
The storm's career and lightning's shock,
My own green land, for ever!
Oh, never may a son of thine,
Where'er his wandering steps incline,
Forget the sky which bent above
His childhood, like a dream of love!—
Land of my fathers — if my name,
Now humble and unwed to fame,
Hereafter burn upon the lip,
As one of those which may not die,
Linked in eternal fellowship
With visions pure, and strong, and high;
If the wild dreams, which quicken now
The throbbing pulse of heart and brow,

Hereafter take a real form,
Like spectres changed to beings warm,
And over temples wan and gray
The star-like crown of glory shine!
Thine be the bard's undying lay,
The murmur of his praise be thine!

WHITTIER.

NETTLE.

Urtica. Class 21; Order 4. An extensive genus, containing near eighty species. Indigenous to the tropical parts of America, India, and the islands in the Pacific. One species in Europe. Flowers have no corolla.

SLANDER.

O'er the throng Urtica flings
Her barbed shafts, and darts her poisoned stings.

DARWIN.

SENTIMENT.

O thou, from whose rank breath nor sex can save,
Nor sacred virtue, nor the powerless grave,
Felon unwhipped! than whom, in yonder cells,
Full many a groaning wretch less guilty dwells,
Blush—if of honest blood a drop remains,
To steal its lonely way along thy veins;
Blush—if the bronze long hardened on thy cheek
Has left one spot where that poor drop can speak;
Blush to be branded with the Slanderer's name,
And, though thou dread'st not sin, at least dread shame.
We hear, indeed, but shudder while we hear,
The insidious falsehood, and the heartless jeer;
For each dark libel that thou lick'st to shape,
Thou may'st from law, but not from scorn, escape;
The pointed finger, cold averted eye,
Insulted virtue's hiss — thou canst not fly.

SPRAGUE.

NIGHTSHADE.

Solanum nigrum. Class 5; Order 1. A very extensive genus; more than one hundred species are found in America. There are species also in India and Africa. The Solanum nigrum has white flowers with yellow anthers.

DARK THOUGHTS.

The baneful root, Solanum, must arise
From dismal, dark Tartarean shade.

Garland of Flora.

SENTIMENT.

O say, why age, and grief, and pain,
Shall long to go, but long in vain;
Why vice is left to mock at time,
And, gray in years, grow gray in crime;
While youth, that every eye makes glad,
And beauty, all in radiance clad,
And goodness, cheering every heart,
Come, but come only to depart;
Sunbeams, to cheer life's wintry day,
Sunbeams to flash, then fade away.

SPRAGUE.

ANSWER.

When Heaven's unerring pencil writes on every pilgrim's breast,
As passport to Time's changeful shore, "Lo, this is not your rest,

Why build ye towers, ye fleeting ones?—Why bowers
of fragrance rear?
As if the self-deluded soul might find its solace here?"

In vain! in vain! for storms will rise, and o'er your
treasures sweep;—
But, when loud thunders vex the wave, and deep
replies to deep,
When in your desolated path Hope's glittering frag-
ments lay,
Spring up and fix your grasp on that which never can
decay.

MRS. SIGOURNEY.

OAK LEAF.

Quercus. Class 21; Order 13. This useful genus contains about eighty species; found chiefly in Europe and America. Only one single species found in the Southern hemisphere. The Oak lives to a great age. The flower has no corolla.

BRAVERY AND HUMANITY.

Most worthy of the Oaken wreath
The ancients him esteemed,
Who in a battle had from death
Some man of worth redeemed.

DRAYTON.

SENTIMENT.

'Mid the din of arms, when the dust and smoke
In clouds are curling o'er thee,
Be firm till the enemy's ranks are broke,
And they fall or flee before thee.

Yet I would not have thee towering stand
O'er him who 's for mercy crying,
But bow to the earth, and with tender hand
Raise up the faint and dying.

MISS GOULD.

OATS.

Avena. Class 3; Order 2. Found in the United States, Europe, Barbary, &c. Flowers, spreading without petals; the pannicle very elegant and flexible.

MUSIC.

Two sister nymphs, the fair Avenas, lead
Their fleecy squadrons o'er the lawns of Tweed;
Pass with light step his wave-worn banks along,
And wake his echoes with their silver tongue,
Or touch the reed as gentle love inspires,
In notes accordant to their chaste desires.

DARWIN.

SENTIMENT.

Young thoughts have music in them, love
And happiness their theme,
And music wanders in the wind
That lulls a morning dream.
And there are angel voices heard
In childhood's frolic hours,
When life is but an April day
Of sunshine and of flowers.

There 's music in the forest leaves,
When summer winds are there,
And in the laugh of forest girls,
That braid their sunny hair:

The first wild bird that drinks the dew
From violets of the spring
Has music in his song, and in
The fluttering of his wing.

HALLECK.

OLIVE.

Olea. Class 2; Order 1. The Olive was sacred to Minerva; and it has been since the Deluge the emblem of peace. It lives to a great age. Flowers, white, small, and slightly odoriferous.

PEACE.

The sign of peace who first displays,
The Olive wreath possesses.

DRAYTON.

SENTIMENT.

Come, while the blossoms of thy year are brightest,
Thou youthful wanderer in a flowery maze;
Come, while the restless heart is bounding lightest,
And Joy's pure sunbeams tremble in thy ways;
Come, while sweet thoughts, like summer buds unfolding,
Waken rich feelings in the careless breast—
While yet thy hand the ephemeral wreath is holding,
Come, and secure interminable rest.

Come, while the morning of thy life is glowing,
Ere the dim phantoms thou art chasing die—
Ere the gay spell, which earth is round thee throwing,
Fades like the crimson from a sunset sky.
Life is but shadows, save a promise given,
Which lights up sorrow with a fadeless ray.
O, touch the sceptre!—with a hope in heaven,
Come, turn thy spirit from the world away.

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Then will the crosses of this brief existence
 Seem airy nothing to thine ardent soul,
And, shining brightly in the forward distance,
 Will of thy patient race appear the goal—
Home of the weary; where, in peace reposing,
 The spirit lingers in unbounded bliss;
Though o'er its dust the uncurtained grave is closing,
 Who would not early choose a lot like this?

ANON.

ORANGE BLOSSOM.

Citrus auranticum. Class 18; Order 12. Native of India and China. The flowers are white, odorous, in short racemes.

WOMAN'S WORTH.

Know'st thou the land where groves of citron flower,
The golden Orange darkling leaves embower —
Know'st thou the land? Oh, there! oh, there!
I long with thee, my loved one, to repair.

GOETHE.

SENTIMENT.

Ah! woman — in this world of our's,
What gift can be compared to thee!
How slow would drag life's weary hours,
Though man's proud brow were bound with flowers,
And his the wealth of land and sea,
If destined to exist alone,
And ne'er call woman's heart his own.

* * * * * *

Yes, woman's love is free from guile,
And pure as bright Aurora's ray;
The heart will melt before its smile,
And earthly passions fade away.

Were I the monarch of the earth,
And master of the swelling sea,
I would not estimate their worth,
Dear woman, half the price of thee.

MORRIS.

ORCHIS.

Orchis. Class 19; Order 1. A genus of near ninety species; principally indigenous to Europe, Northern Africa, and North America. Flowers, orange, yellow, white, and bluish purple; spiked.

A BELLE.

The Orchis race with varied beauty charm,
And mock the exploring fly or bee's aërial form.

SMITH.

SENTIMENT.

Men gaze on beauty for a while,
Allured by artificial smile.
But Love shall never twang his dart
From any string that 's formed by art.

* * * * * *

Be thine to live, and never know
Sweet sympathy in joy or woe,
To see Time rob thee, one by one,
Of every charm thou e'er hast known;
To see the moth, that round thee came,
Flit to some newer, brighter flame,
And never know thy destined fate,
Till to retrieve it is too late.

PAULDING.

OX-EYE.

Buphthalmum. Class 19; Order 2. A genus of more than twenty species; found every where between the tropics. Flowers, a common calyx. Corolla, compound, radiate.

PATIENCE.

Ox-eye still green, and bitter patience.

Garland of Flora.

SENTIMENT.

Even as a fountain, whose unsullied wave
Wells in the pathless valley, flowing o'er
With silent waters, kissing as they lave
The pebbles with bright rippling, and the shore
Of matted grass and flowers—so softly pour
The breathings of her bosom, when she prays,
Low bowed before her Maker; then no more
She muses on the griefs of former days;
Her full heart melts, and flows in heaven's dissolving rays.

Death will come—
A few short moments over, and the prize
Of peace eternal waits her, and the tomb
Becomes her fondest pillow.

PERCIVAL.

ANSWER.

I never sought
With eagerness, as others seek in vain,

The phantom, Happiness;—for I was taught,
When young, it dwelt not in this world—yes, pain
And care were my acquaintance when a child;
And I have always had a wish to turn
Away from earth;—and death has worn a mild,
Not fearful, aspect.

ANON.

PANSY.

Viola tricolor. Class 5; Order 1. A European species of the violet; cultivated in America. It is called tricolor, from the union of purple, yellow, and blue, in its blossoms.

TENDER AND PLEASANT THOUGHTS.

Pray you, love, remember
There is Pansies — that 's for thoughts.

SHAKSPEARE.

SENTIMENT.

I 've pleasant thoughts that memory brings
In moments free from care,
Of a fairy-like and laughing girl,
With roses in her hair;
Her smile was like the starlight
Of summer's softest skies,
And worlds of joyousness there shone
From out her witching eyes.

Her looks were looks of melody,
Her voice was like the swell
Of sudden music, notes of mirth,
That of wild gladness tell;
She came like spring, with pleasant sounds
Of sweetness and of mirth,
And her thoughts were those wild flowery ones
That linger not on earth.

I know not of her destiny,
 Or where her smile now strays,
But the thought of her comes over me
 With my own lost sunny days,
With moonlight hours, and far off friends,
 And many pleasant things,
That have gone the way of all the earth
 On Time's resistless wings.

MRS. L. P. SMITH.

PASSION FLOWER.

Passiflora. Class 16; Order 2. Indigenous to America — at the South the flowers are bright red; those of the North are generally pale blue or yellow. It is said to have been discovered and named by the missionaries.

RELIGIOUS FERVOUR.

One more plant———

Which consecrate to Salem's peaceful king,
Though fair as any gracing beauty's bower,
Is linked to sorrow like a holy thing,
And takes its name from suffering's fiercest hour,
Be this my noblest theme—Imperial Passion Flower!
Whatever impulse first conferred that name,
Or Fancy's dream, or Superstition's art,
I freely own its spirit-touching claim,
With thoughts and feelings it may well impart.

BERNARD BARTON.

SENTIMENT.

The earth, all light and loveliness, in summer's golden hours,
Smiles, in her bridal vesture clad, and crowned with festal flowers
So radiantly beautiful, so unlike to heaven above,
We scarce can deem more fair that world of perfect bliss and love.

Is this a shadow, faint and dim, of that which is to come?
What shall the unveiled glories be of our celestial home,
Where waves the glorious tree of life, where streams of bliss gush free,
And all is glowing in the light of immortality!

To see again the home of youth, when weary years have past,
Serenely bright, as when we turned and looked upon it last;
To hear the voice of love, to meet the rapturous embrace,
To gaze, through tears of gladness, on each dear familiar face.

Oh! this indeed is joy, though here we meet again to part;
But what transporting bliss awaits the pure and faithful heart,
Where it shall find the loved and lost, those who have gone before,
Where every tear is wiped away, where partings come no more!

ANON.

PEA, EVERLASTING.

Lathyrus latifolius. Class 17; Order 4. There are about forty species of this genus, almost all European — four only in North America; there are a few in Northern Africa. Flowers, of the native kind, purple—the exotic, crimson.

WILT THOU GO WITH ME?

The winged Lathyrus, that lightly seems
To soar like hope in waiting lovers' dreams.

ANON.

SENTIMENT.

Wilt thou go, dearest, go
To the heath and the mountain?—
Where the violets blow
On the brink of the fountain;
Where the soul shall be free
As the winds that blow o'er us;
And the sunset of life
Smile in beauty before us?
There nothing but death
Our affection can sever,
And till life's latest breath
Love shall bind us for ever.

PERCIVAL.

PEA, SWEET.

Lathyrus odoratus. Class 17; Order 4. Native of Sicily and Ceylon. Stalks, two flowered. The blossoms are beautifully rich in colouring — blue, lilac, rose, white, &c. all in the same flower, very fragrant.

DEPARTURE.

Here are Sweet Peas, on tiptoe for a flight,
With wings of gentle flush o'er delicate white,
And taper fingers catching at all things,
To bind them all about with tiny rings.

KEATS.

SENTIMENT.

I must go o'er the sea to other lands:
It is the call of duty; but, fear not,
I shall return, and then our loves are sure.
Dream not of danger on the sea—one Power
Protects us always, and the honest heart
Fears not the tempest.

PERCIVAL.

ANSWER.

When from land and home receding,
And from hearts that ache to bleeding,
Think of those behind who love thee;
While the sun is bright above thee!

Then, as down to ocean glancing,
With the waves his rays are dancing,
Think how long the night will be
To the eyes that weep for thee.

MISS GOULD.

PEACH BLOSSOM.

Amygdalus persica. Class 12; Order 1. The native country of the Peach is not known. It came to the Romans from Persia. Flowers, pale red.

I AM YOUR CAPTIVE.

Go, flower, and my passion declare,
While her delicate praises you speak—
Yet the Peach Blossom hue is less fair
Than the bloom of her beautiful cheek.

WIFFEN.

SENTIMENT.

I loved thee, and must love thee still,
In memory of the past,
Amid whate'er of earthly ill
My future lot is cast!
E'er in my boyhood's sunny prime,
When brightly from the urn of Time
Life's golden moments fell,
Thou wert a peri to my eyes,
Sent from Love's own sweet paradise,
In my young heart to dwell.

ANON.

PEONY.

Pæonia. Class 13; Order 3. Native of Switzerland and the Alps. Root, perennial. Flowers, double crimson colour, and very superb.

ANGER.

Pæonia round each fiery ring unfurls,
Bared to the noon's bright blaze, her sanguine curls.

EVANS.

SENTIMENT.

The wildest ills that darken life
Are rapture to the bosom's strife;
The tempest in its blackest form
Is beauty to the bosom's storm;
The ocean, lashed to fury loud,
Its high wave mingling with the cloud,
Is peaceful, sweet serenity,
To anger's dark and stormy sea.

EASTBURNE.

PERIWINKLE, BLUE.

Vinca minor. Class 5; Order 1. Native of Egypt, but naturalized in Europe. Flowers, deep blue, white in the centre—scentless. Leaves, evergreen—perennial.

EARLY AND SINCERE FRIENDSHIP.

In France the Periwinkle is esteemed the emblem of sincere friendship.

> Where captivates the sky-blue Periwinkle
> Under the cottage eaves.
>
> HURDIS.

SENTIMENT.

Hast thou forgot, friend of my better days,
Hast thou forgot the early innocent joys
Of our remotest childhood; when our lives
Were linked in one, and our young hearts bloomed out
Like violet bells, upon the self-same stem,
Pouring the dewy odours of life's spring
Into each other's bosom—all the bright
And sorrowful thoughts of a confiding love,
And intermingled vows, and blossoming hopes
Of future good, and infant dreams of bliss,
Budding and breathing sunnily about them,
As crimson-spotted cups, in spring-time, hang
On all the delicate fibres of the vine?

THATCHER.

PERIWINKLE, WHITE OR RED.

Vinca rosea. Class 5; Order 1. Native of the East Indies. It flowers the greater part of the year. Flowers, either rose colour or pure white; the centre always a rich crimson with a yellow eye.

PLEASURES OF MEMORY.

There sprang the violet all newe,
And fresh Periwinke, rich of hue,
No violet, ne eke Periwinke
Ne floure more than men can thinke.

CHAUCER.

SENTIMENT.

'T is sweet and yet 't is sad, that gentle power,
Which throws in winter's lap the spring-tide flower;
I love to dream of days my childhood knew,
When, with the sister of my heart, time flew
On wings of innocence and hope! dear hours,
When joys sprang up about our path like flowers!

* * * * * *

Our smiles were clearer than the skies of June,
Our tears were not of sorrow—but full soon
The visions of my boyhood passed away,
And heavily life's chain upon me lay;
And now 't is sweet, though sad, alone to lie
Within the autumn moon's unclouded eye,

While memory renders back the pearls of cost,
That else in Time's oblivious waves were lost,
And bids me own at once, and bless the power
Which throws in winter's lap the spring-tide flower.

MRS. A. M. WELLS.

PHLOX.

Phlox maculata. Class 5; Order 1. (Wild Sweet William). This is a North American plant, with the exception of one species found in Northern Asia. Flowers, purple, pink, lilac, and white—very showy. Plant, perennial.

UNANIMITY.

Sweet-williams, campions, sops-in-wine,
One by another neatly;
Thus have I made this wreath of mine.

DRAYTON.

SENTIMENT.

I wish I could build me a princely dome,
With temples, and fountains, and towers—
I 'd fence it about with wonderful care,
That no annoyers should break in there,
And all within should be tasteful and fair—
Around should be gardens and bowers.

With plenty of books, and abundance of wealth,
Enough for myself and for others,
I would shut out the ignorant, wicked, and rude,
And let in the wise, and the witty, and good,
Who should keep me, for aye, in a sociable mood,
And be to me sisters and brothers.

Nought there should be vulgar, or false, or unkind,
And nothing to tire, or annoy;

We kindred spirits should daily meet,
In honest and faithful affection to greet,
And chase away time in communion sweet,
Nor look for the blight of our joy.

ANON.

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PINE.

Pinus nigra. Class 21; Order 16. (Black spruce). This species is indigenous to North America. Found from Canada to Carolina. Leaves, a dark green.

PITY.

A crown of Pine upon his head he wore,
And thus began her pity to implore.

DRYDEN'S *Ovid.*

SENTIMENT.

To me, though bathed in sorrow's dew,
The dearer far art thou;
I loved thee, when thy woes were few,
And can I alter now?
That face, in joy's bright hour was fair,
More beautiful since grief is there,
Though somewhat pale thy brow:
And be it mine to soothe the pain,
Thus pressing on thy heart and brain.

ANON.

ANSWER.

It may be that I shall forget thy grief;
It may be time has good in store for me;
It may be that my heart will find relief
From sources now unknown: Futurity

May bear within its folds some hidden spring
From which will issue blessed streams; and yet
Whate'er of joy the coming years may bring,
The past — the past — I never can forget!

ANON.

PINE, PITCH.

Pinus rigida. Class 21; Order 16. A genus consisting of nearly forty species, principally found in Europe and America. There are few in the Levant, India, and China.

TIME AND PHILOSOPHY.

To Rhea grateful still the pine remains.

CONGREVE'S *Ovid.*

SENTIMENT.

Yes, dear departed, cherished days;
Could memory's hand restore
Your morning light, your evening rays,
From Time's gray urn once more,
Then might this restless heart be still,
This straining eye might close,
And Hope her fainting pinions fold,
While the fair phantoms rose.

But, like a child in ocean's arms,
We strive against the stream,
Each moment farther from the shore
Where life's young fountains gleam—
Each moment fainter wave the fields,
And wilder rolls the sea;
The mist grows dark — the sun goes down—
Day breaks — and where are we?

HOLMES.

ANSWER.

Why should we count our life by years,
 Since years are short, and pass away?
Or, why by fortune's smiles and tears,
 Since tears are vain, and smiles decay?

O! count by virtues — these will last
 When life's lame-footed race is o'er;
And these, when earthly joys are past,
 Shall cheer us on a brighter shore.

MRS. HALE.

PINE, SPRUCE.

Pinus abies. Class 21; Order 8. This species is cultivated in gardens, and called Norway Spruce Fir. It has long fan-like branches. Cones, pendulous. The Burgundy pitch is made from this species.

HOPE IN ADVERSITY.

The evergreen stern winter's power derides,
Like hope that in misfortune's storm abides.

S * * *.

SENTIMENT.

We will not deplore, then, the days that are past,
The gloom of misfortune is over them cast;
They were lengthened by sorrow and sullied by care;
Their griefs were too many, the joys were too rare;
Yet now that their shadows are on us no more,
Let us welcome the prospect that brightens before!

We have cherished fair hopes, we have plotted brave schemes,
We have lived till we find them illusive as dreams:
Wealth has melted like snow that is grasped in the hand,
And the steps we have climbed have departed like sand;
Yet, shall we despond while of health unbereft,
And honour, bright honour, and freedom are left?

* * * * * *

O! let us no longer, then, vainly lament
Over scenes that have faded, or days that are spent;
But by faith unforsaken, unawed by mischance,
On Hope's waving banner still fixed be our glance:
And should fortune prove cruel and false to the last,
Let us look to the future and not to the past.

ANON.

PINK, RED, DOUBLE.

Dianthus rubeus. Class 10; Order 2. Native of Europe. The primitive pink, simple red and white; by culture it has been enlarged, and its colour varied. The double-red is very sweet-scented.

WOMAN'S LOVE.

Each Pink sends forth its choicest sweet,
Aurora's warm embrace to meet.

ROBINSON.

SENTIMENT.

What is man's love? His vows are broke,
Even while his parting kiss is warm —
But woman's love all change will mock,
And, like the ivy round the oak,
Cling closest in the storm.

And well the poet, at her shrine,
May bend and worship while he wooes;
To him she is a thing divine,
The inspiration of his line,
His loved one and his Muse.

If to his song the echo rings
Of fame — 't is woman's voice he hears;

If ever from his lyre's proud strings
Flow sounds, like rush of angel-wings,
'T is that she listens while he sings,
With blended smiles and tears.

HALLECK.

PINK, INDIAN.

Dianthus chinensis. Class 10; Order 2. The flowers of this species are placed singly on branching stems — vivid red, and scentless.

YOU WILL ALWAYS BE LOVELY.

For thee in autumn blows
The Indian Pink and latest rose,
For thee.

SMITH.

SENTIMENT.

I loved thee for thy high-born grace,
Thy deep and lustrous eye,
For the sweet meaning of thy brow,
And for thy bearing high.
I loved thee for thy stainless truth,
Thy thirst for higher things,
For all that to our common lot
A better temper brings.
And are they not all thine? still thine?
Is not thy heart as true?
Holds not thy step its noble grace?
Thy cheek its dainty hue?
And have I not an ear to hear,
And a cloudless eye to see,
And a thirst for beautiful human thought,
That first was stirred by thee?

WILLIS.

Thy eyes are springs, in whose serene
And silent waters heaven is seen;
Their lashes are the herbs that look
On their young figures in the brook.

The forest depths, by foot unpressed,
Are not more sinless than thy breast;
The holy peace that fills the air
Of those calm solitudes is there.

BRYANT.

POLYANTHUS.

Primula auricula. Class 5; Order 1. There are few of this genus in America, but it is mostly found in the Alpine regions of Europe. The Primula auricula is a native of the Alps; originally yellow, but, when cultivated, it assumes the most diversified colours. Perennial.

PRIDE OF NEWLY-ACQUIRED FORTUNE.

See Polyanthus, in full clustered pride,
In splendid robes of rich unnumbered eyes,
With scorn, from old acquaintance, turn aside.

MATTHEW.

SENTIMENT.

Maiden, go! and should you rue
All your coldness here hath done,
Know that Nature, ever true,
Will not now desert her son:
If you she gave the cold desire
To flaunt in Fortune's glittering train,
For me she framed a heart and lyre,
Which will not let me live in vain.
The simple chords of that rude lyre,
The plain warm homage of that heart,
Alike were your's; and shall the fire
That warmed in joy, in grief depart?

Maiden, go! I will not call
A blush again to shame that brow:
But may you in the festal hall
Be tranquil as you leave me now;
Still my lot in life must be
In some dim secluded spot,
Undisturbed by thoughts of thee,
Dreams of love and all forgot;
Yet ne'er the Tajo's sands of gold,
Nor all the treasures of the deep,
Can pay you for the peace you 've sold,
Pleasant dreams and quiet sleep.

ANON.

POPPY, RED.

Papaver rhœas. Class 13; Order 1. A European genus of twelve species — there are also two in the Levant, one in Barbary, and one in Labrador.

EVANESCENT PLEASURE.

But pleasures are like Poppies spread,
You seize the flower, its bloom is shed.

BURNS.

SENTIMENT.

Time! Time! In thy triumphal flight,
How all life's phantoms flee away!
The smile of Hope — and young delight,
Fame's meteor beam — and Fancy's ray;
They fade — and on thy heaving tide,
Rolling its stormy waves afar,
Are borne the wrecks of human pride —
The broken wrecks of Fortune's war.

Where hath the morning splendour flown,
Which danced upon the crystal stream?
Where are the joys to childhood known,
When life is an enchanted dream?
Enveloped in the starless night,
Which destiny hath overspread;
Enrolled upon that trackless flight
Where the dark wing of Time hath sped.

BROOKS.

POPPY, SCARLET.

Papaver. Class and Order as the preceding. This species is the wild poppy, found in corn-fields, &c.

FANTASTIC EXTRAVAGANCE.

Poppy, thy charms attract the vulgar gaze,
And tempt the view with meretricious blaze;
Caught by the glare, with pleasure they behold
Thy glowing crimson melting into gold.
In vain to nobler minds thy lure is spread,
Thy painted front, thy cup of glowing red;
Beneath thy bloom such noxious vapours lie,
That, when obtained and smelt, we loathe and fly.

TAYLOR.

SENTIMENT.

Nor yet too brightly strive to blaze,
By stealing all the rainbow rays;
Your gaudy artificial fly
Will only take the younger fry.
Who has not seen, and seeing mourned,
And mourning smiled, and smiling scorned,
In wild ambition flaming down,
Some comet from a country town?
See, see her in her motley hues,
Funereal blacks and brimstone blues,

And lurid green, and bonfire red,
At once their varied radiance shed,
And skin-deep gold, and would-be pearls,
And, oh! those heaps of corkscrew curls!

HOLMES.

POPPY, WHITE.

Papaver somniferum. Class 13; Order 1. The White Poppy is preferred for making opium. The name papaver was given because the flowers or fruit of the Poppy was formerly mixed with the pap given to children in order to procure sleep.

FORGETFULNESS, OR CONSOLATION.

There, Poppies white and violets
Alcippus on the altar sets
Of quiet sleep; and weaves a crown
To bring the gentle god adown.

Fracastoro — trans.

SENTIMENT.

Will you drink of this fountain and sorrow forget?
Has the past been so blest that you hesitate yet?
Can love, when 't is slighted, still cherish a token,
Or hearts still forgive, that unkindness has broken?

If you will not call woe and reproach on his name,
Forget him; for honour, for pride, and for shame;
And if passion resist every feeble endeavour,
Drink deep of the wave, and forget it for ever.

PERCIVAL.

ANSWER.

I never will curse him, I never must bless,
Though if anger were greater, the grief would be less.
I have suffered; and much, ere I die, must bear yet,
But I cannot forgive, and I will never forget.

ANON.

PRIMROSE, EVENING.

Œnothera odorata. Class 8; Order 1. Tree Primrose. An American genus, except two species at the Cape of Good Hope. The plant is two or three feet high; flowers, pale yellow; open very suddenly.

INCONSTANCY.

A turf of evening Primroses,
O'er which the wind may hover till it dozes;
O'er which it well might take a pleasant sleep,
But that 't is ever startled by the leap
Of buds into ripe flowers.

KEATS.

SENTIMENT.

If ere I win a parting token,
'T is something that has lost its power,
A chain that has been used and broken,
A ruined glove, a faded flower;
Something that makes my pleasures less,
Something that means— forgetfulness.
And yet my tears are little worth:
For could I win a seraph's smile
To light me through this weary earth,
'T would tire me in the briefest while;
For, lady, (is it very wrong?)
We hate you when you love too long.

WILLIS.

PRIMROSE.

Primula. Class 5; Order 1. Found in Europe and America. It is one of the earliest spring flowers.

HAVE CONFIDENCE IN ME.

The Primrose, when with saxe leaves gotten grace,
Maids as a true love in their bosom place.

BROWNE.

SENTIMENT.

What, though the world has whispered thee, "Beware!"
Thou dost not dream of change. Nay, do not speak,
For any answer would imply a doubt
In love's deep confidence, which not for worlds
Should have existence.

* * * * * *

There's many a shadow resting on my name;
But, oh! the world's false voice has feeble power
When love asserts his empire.

MORRIS.

PRIMROSE, ROSE-COLOURED.

Primula. Class 5; Order 1. The general character of the flowers of the genus Primula is a calyx of one leaf — corolla, monopetalous, cut half-way down into five heart-shaped segments.

UNPATRONIZED MERIT.

The Primrose, tenant of the glade,
Emblem of virtue in the shade.

MAYNE.

SENTIMENT.

I have no hand to cheer me! Was there one,
Whom I must ever long for, was that heart
Still mine in all my sorrows, as the sun
Wakens a slumbering world, she might impart
New being to me, and my soul would start
As giants from their sleep, to run the race
Of glory, and to hurl the unerring dart,
Where Victory rears her palm branch.

PERCIVAL.

PRICKLY PEAR.

Cactus. Class 12; Order 1. Native of South America and the West Indies. There are many species, from creeping shrubs to trees of ten feet in height. Flowers, yellow, white, red pink colour.

SATIRE.

And can young Beauty's tender heart
 Nurse thoughts of scorn,
As on the Cactus' greenest leaves
 Protrudes the thorn?

ANON.

SENTIMENT.

Ay, curl that cherub lip in scorn,
 And give to wit the rein,
And barb that tongue with sarcasms born
 From thy proud heart's disdain,
In mockery of one who erst
Was ever foremost of the first
 To guard thy maiden fame —
One who, with quick adventurous hand,
Had braved the proudest of the land
 That lightly named thy name.

And yet, if thou canst borrow,
 In beauty's mirthful pride,
Delight from friendship's sorrow,
 Smile on, I will not chide;

Yet, ah! methinks, it were more kind,
More fraught with woman's feeling mind,
To hide derision's fang
From one, who even now would dare
More than life's brittle thread would bear,
Ere thou shouldst feel one pang.

ANON.

QUEEN'S ROCKET.

Hesperis matronalis. Class 15; Order 2. Native of the South of Europe and the North of Africa. One species only found in North America. Flowers, pale purple or white; very sweet, but exhaling only in the evening.

SHE WILL BE FASHIONABLE.

In rival pomp, see either Rocket blow,
Bright as the sun, or as the new-fallen snow.

EVANS.

SENTIMENT.

As the spring, in native beauty
Painted, charms the admiring sight,
Nor the gorgeous garden envies
For its colours rich and bright;
As the streamlet, gently murmuring,
Winds along its devious way,
Beautiful, though art has never
Taught its waters how to stray;
So her native grace and beauty
Best becomes each charming maid;
Cupid justly holds suspected,
Dress too artfully displayed.

ANON.

ROSE, AUSTRIAN.

Rosa bicolor. Class 12; Order 13. A genus of nearly fifty species, chiefly indigenous to Europe. A few species found in Japan and India, and nine or ten in North America.

THOU ART VERY LOVELY.

Rose, thou art the sweetest flower
That ever drank the amber shower!
Rose, thou art the fondest child
Of dimpled Spring! the wood-nymph wild!

ANACREON.

SENTIMENT.

Oh! thou, who art the fairest of earth's daughters,
Delighted could I sit a summer's day,
To drink the music of thy lips away,
Gushing their careless melody as waters:
And while I gazed upon thy full blue eyes,
Still list'ning to thy passion-kindling songs,
Deem myself happiest of thy votaries.
Thus, while the morning lark his notes prolongs,
Lists the rapt bard, and, bending to the skies,
Sends up the incense of a grateful heart
For such a gleam of heavenly ecstasies!
Oh, beautiful in feature as thou art,
More beautiful in mind — my thoughts of thee
Shall live in Love's undying memory.

DAWES.

ANSWER.

Love
Has lent life's wings a rosy hue;
But, ah! Love's dyes were caught above,
They brighten — but they wither too.

WILLIS.

ROSE, BRIDAL.

Rubus rosafolius. Class and Order same as the foregoing. Rose bridal is of the genus Rubus, which includes the Bramble family. Flowers, white, usually double, small and very beautiful.

HAPPY LOVE.

And all is ecstasy; for now
The valley holds its feast of roses,
That joyous time, when pleasures pour
Profusely round, and in their shower
Hearts open like the season's rose.

MOORE.

SENTIMENT.

The flower which on Life's desert grows,
Unheeded in its young repose,
Till the mind's ray its shadows break,
And youthful thoughts their pinions take,
That lives the same through changing years,
Through smiles of joy, through Sorrow's tears:
Ay, hopes may vanish as a dream,
Joys bring no warmth upon their beam;
It will bloom on, though all should flee,
Changeless as angel purity:
That flower is Love.

The shrine where Life's sweet flowers are laid,
Ere a cold world has bid them fade;

Where beauty in her bloom attends;
And Hope in gay devotion bends,
And the young soul's unburdened wings
Go forth in joyous wanderings:
That shrine is Love.

ANON.

ROSE, BURGUNDY.

Rosa parvifolia. Native of Europe A dwarf shrub. Leaflet, fine. Flowers, small.

SIMPLICITY AND BEAUTY.

The Rose is fairest when 't is budding new.

SCOTT.

SENTIMENT.

New England's daughters need not envy those
Who in a monarch's court their jewels wear;
More lovely they, when but a simple Rose
Glows through the golden clusters of their hair.
Could light of diamonds make her look more fair,
Who moves in beauty through the mazy dance,
With buoyant feet that seem to skim the air,
And eyes that whisper in each gentle glance
The poetry of youth, love's sweet and short romance.

MRS. LITTLE.

ANSWER.

Beauty and Love — their emblems are flowers!
Their date of existence is numbered by hours.

ANON.

ROSE, CAROLINA.

Rosa Carolina. Shrubs, six or seven feet high. Flowers, crimson, large.

LOVE IS DANGEROUS.

I sent thee late a rosy wreath—
But thou thereon didst only breathe,
And sent it back to me.

BEN JONSON.

SENTIMENT.

Yes, love is but a dangerous guest
For hearts so young as thine,
Where youth's unshadowed joys should rest,
Life's spring-time fancies shine.

Then, sweetest, leave the wildering dream,
Till Time has nerved thy heart,
To brook the fitful cloud and gleam,
Which must in love have part.

Ah! life has many a blessed hour
That passion never knows,
And youth may gather many a flower
Beside the blushing Rose.

ANON.

ROSE, DAILY.

Rosa quotidiana.

LEVITY.

Thou blushing Rose!—
Blown in the morning—thou shalt fade ere noon:
What boots a life that in such haste forsakes thee?
Thou 'rt wondrous frolic, being to die so soon,
And passing proud a little colour makes thee.

SIR RICHARD FANSHAW.

SENTIMENT.

And thou, with girlish glee, wilt go
To kneel at pleasure's shrine,
Nor e'er a thought on him bestow,
Whose every thought is thine.

The idlers who around thee press,
With careless praise will dwell
Upon that face whose loveliness
My tongue could never tell.

Those charms which my affections won,
The mind that I adore,
The form that I could gaze upon
Till life itself were o'er;

Each winning look, each winning smile,
That I have loved so long,

Will then some trifling fop beguile,
Or charm a heartless throng.

But why do I at ills repine,
Which still I may not meet?
This heart, whose every pulse is thine,
Ere then may cease to beat!

And still thou 'lt move where'er are met
The careless and the gay,
And soon my memory forget,
When I have passed away.

ANON.

ROSE, DAMASK.

Rosa damascena. The Damask or damascene Rose was first brought from Asia into Greece; then it was transplanted into Italy and France. Flowers, white and red.

YOUTH.

Like the Damask Rose you see,
Or like the blossom on the tree,
Or like the dainty flowers of May,
Or like the morning to the day,
Even such is life.

BLACKBURNE.

SENTIMENT.

Let us prize the Rose,
In the unclouded morning of this day,
Which soon will lose its bright serenity;
O, let us prize the first blown Rose of love.
Let us love now, in this our fairest youth,
When love can find a full and fond return.

PERCIVAL.

ANSWER.

When the air is lightest,
And the sky is brightest,
Art thou in the garden talking to a flower?

EDWARDS.

ROSE, DEEP RED.

Rose rubor. This is the wild sweet Rose, improved by cultivation. It is the most common species in our gardens.

BASHFUL SHAME.

In velvet lips the bashful Rose begun
To show and catch the kisses of the sun;
Some fuller blown, their crimson honours shed;
Sweet smell the golden chives that graced their head.

GAWIN DOUGLAS.

SENTIMENT.

Alas, that in our earliest blush,
 Our danger first we feel,
And tremble when the rising flush
 Betrays some angel's seal!
Alas, for care and pallid wo
 Sit watchers in their turn,
Where heaven's too faint and transient glow
 So soon forgets to burn!
Maiden, through every change, the same
 Sweet semblance thou may'st wear;
Ay, scorch thy very soul with shame,
 Thy brow may still be fair:
But if thy lovely cheek forget
 The Rose of purer years—
Say, does not memory sometimes wet
 That changeless cheek with tears?

HOLMES.

ANSWER.

On Beauty's lids, the gem-like tear
 Oft sheds its evanescent ray,
But scarce is seen to sparkle ere
 'T is chased by beaming smiles away;
Just so the blush is formed — and flies—
 Nor owns reflection's calm control:
It comes, it deepens — fades, and dies,
 A gush of feeling from the soul.

ANON.

ROSE, HUNDRED LEAVED.

Rosa centifolia. This magnificent Rose is a native of the southern parts of Europe. The velvet Rose belongs to this species. Its colours vary from crimson to pink and purple.

DIGNITY OF MIND.

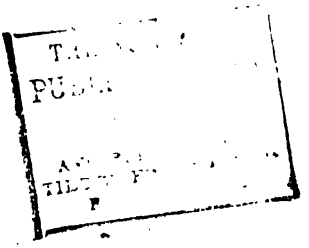
Thou queen of flowers,
Of thousand leaves,
And throne surrounded by protecting thorn,
Thou heaven-born Rose!

KLEIST.

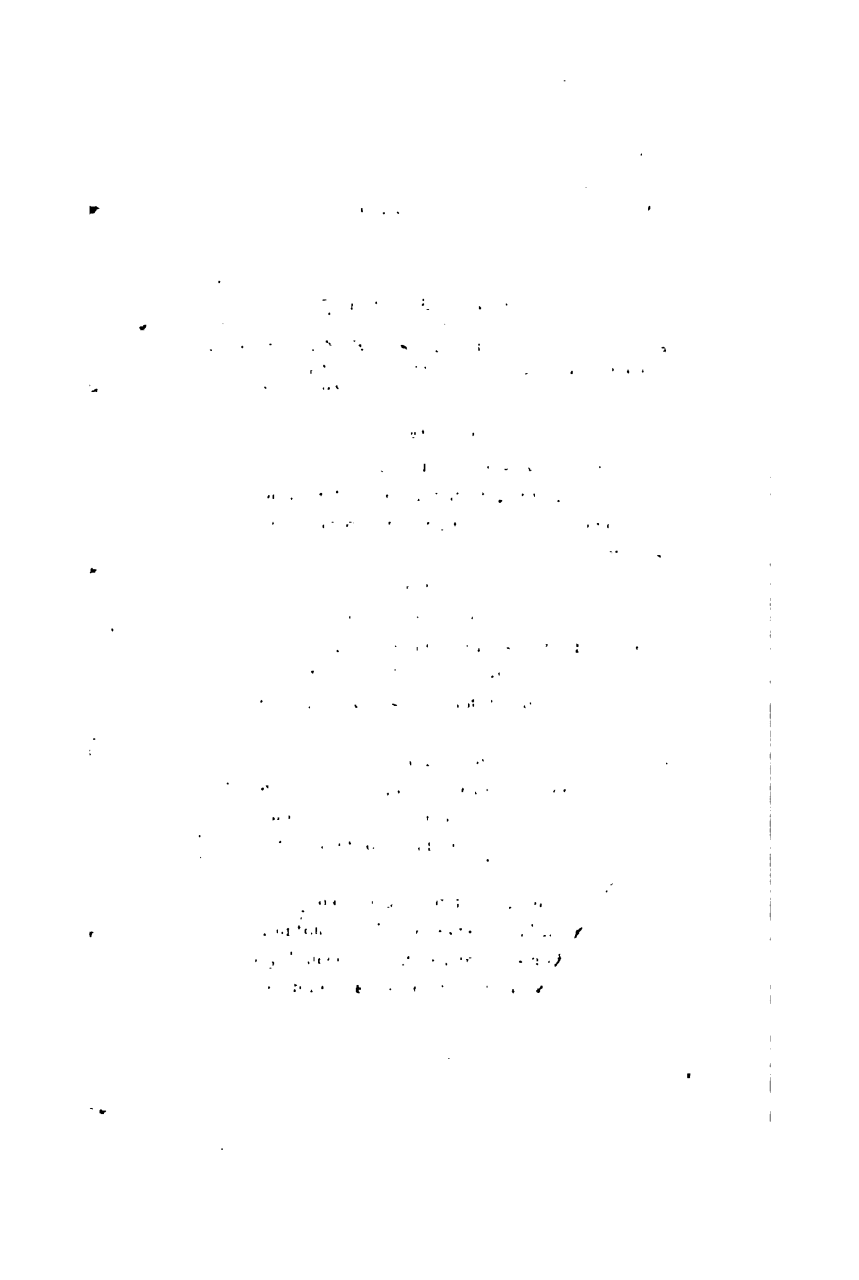
SENTIMENT.

What 's the brow,
Or the eye's lustre, or the step of air,
Or colour, but the beautiful links that chain
The mind from its rare element? There lies
A talisman in intellect, which yields
Celestial music, when the master-hand
Touches it cunningly. It sleeps beneath
The outward semblance, and to common sight
Is an invisible and hidden thing;
But when the lip is faded, and the form
Witches the sense no more, and human love
Falters in its idolatry, this spell
Will hold its strength unbroken, and go on
Stealing anew the affections.

WILLIS.







ROSE, DAMASK.

Rosa damascena. Native of Syria and Damascus, though naturalized in Europe. It is deliciously sweet. Flowers, a beautiful pink, verging towards a purple.

BASHFUL LOVE.

Ah, see the virgin Rose, how sweetly she
Doth first put forth with bashful modesty,
That fairer seems the less ye see her may.

SPENCER.

SENTIMENT.

Before the winning breeze could steal
Morn's sprinkled pearl-drops from the Rose,
I cull'd it, that it might reveal
The tale my lips dare not disclose.

Its leaves of virgin tenderness,
Where I have pressed a kiss for thee,
Its blush of maiden bashfulness,
Both tell of love and secresy.

For they have bound my flowing curls,
And told me that, ere eve's mild hour,
They 'll deck me with their gems and pearls,
To shine the queen of Irad's bower.

But I will toil and tempest brave,
And roam the desert at thy side,
And kiss thy feet, and live thy slave,
Rather than be proud Irad's bride.

HILL.

ROSE, MOSS.

Rosa muscosa. Native of the South of Europe. Stem, three or four feet high — flowers at the top of the branch, large, very fragrant, of a bright crimson hue. Flowers, double.

SUPERIOR MERIT.

The Moss Rose that, at fall of dew,
Was freshly gathered from its stem,
She values as a ruby gem.

Cottage Girl.

SENTIMENT.

It is sure,
Stamped by the seal of Nature, that the well
Of Mind, where all its waters gather pure,
Shall with unquestioned spell all hearts allure.
Wisdom enshrined in beauty—O! how high
The order of that loveliness!

PERCIVAL.

ROSE-BUD, MOSS.

Rosa muscosa. A Rose-bud, just opening, according to Berkley's Utopia, is a declaration of love.

CONFESSION.

The gentle budding Rose, quoth she, behold,
That first scant peeping forth with morning beams,
Half ope, half shut, her beauties doth unfold
In its fair leaves, and less seen fairer seems.

FAIRFAX.

SENTIMENT.

The sporting sylphs that course the air,
 Unseen, on wings that twilight weaves,
Around the opening Rose repair,
 And breathe sweet incense o'er its leaves.

With sparkling cups of bubbles made,
 They catch the ruddy beams of day,
And steal the rainbow's sweeter shade,
 Their blushing favourite to array.

They gather gems with sunbeams bright,
 From floating clouds and falling showers;
They rob Aurora's locks of light,
 To grace their own fair queen of flowers.

Thus, thus adorned, the speaking Rose
 Becomes a token fit to tell

Of things that words can ne'er disclose,
And nought but this reveal so well.

Then, take my flower, and let its leaves
Beside thy heart be cherished near,
While that confiding heart receives
The thought it whispers to thine ear.

ANON.

ROSE, CHINA.

Rosa multiflora. Native of Japan and China. It is a shrub of luxuriant growth. Flowers, in clusters, said to be white in China, but here they are pink.

GRACE.

Resplendent Rose! the flower of flowers,
Whose breath perfumes Olympus' bowers,
Whose virgin blush of chastened dye
Enchants so much our mental eye.

Greek Poet—translated by MOORE.

SENTIMENT.

Oh, say not, wisest of all the kings
That have risen on Israel's throne to reign,
Say not, as one of your wisest things,
That grace is false, and beauty vain!

Is beauty vain because it will fade?
Then are earth's green robe and heaven's light vain;
For this shall be lost in evening's shade,
And that in winter's sleety rain.

But earth's green mantle, prank'd with flowers,
Is the couch where life with joy reposes;
And heaven gives down, with its light and showers,
To regale them, fruits — to deck them, Roses.

And, while opening flowers in such beauty spread,
 And ripening fruits so gracefully swing,
Say not, O king, as you just now said,
 That beauty or grace is a worthless thing.

PIERPONT.

ROSE, MUNDI.

Rosa versicolor. An American Rose, being a variety of the species lucida. Found from New York to Carolina. Flowers, elegantly striped, or variegated with red and white.

YOU ARE MERRY.

Thou blooming Rose!—
Blown in the morning—thou shalt die ere noon;
What boots a life that in such haste forsakes thee?
Thou 'rt wondrous frolic, being to die so soon,
And passing proud a little colour makes thee.

SIR RICHARD FANSHAW.

SENTIMENT.

The merry heart, the merry heart,
Of heaven's gifts I hold the best;
And they who feel its pleasant throb,
Though dark their lot, are truly blest—
From youth to age it changes not,
In joy and sorrow still the same;
When skies are dark and tempests scowl,
It shines a steady beacon flame.
It gives to Beauty half its power,
The nameless charms worth all the rest—
The light that dances o'er a face,
And speaks of sunshine in the breast.

If Beauty ne'er have set her seal,
It well supplies her absence too,
And many a cheek looks passing fair,
Because a merry heart shines through.

ANON.

ROSE, MUSK.

Rosa moschata. The Musk Rose is exceedingly beautiful. Native of Barbary, and from its petals the essential oil is obtained called Attar of Roses.

CHARMING.

As Venus wandered midst the Idalian bower,
And watched the loves and graces round her play,
She plucked a Musk Rose from its dew-bent spray,
"And this," she cried, "shall be my favourite flower,
For o'er its crimson leaflets I will shower
Dissolving sweets, to steal the soul away."

ROSCOE.

SENTIMENT.

Lady, I've looked upon thy face;
And beauty, kindness, virtue, grace,
Have all combined to make thee fair—
O! may thy fortunes be as bright
As are those eyes, whose gentle light
Thy features now so softly wear.

ANON.

ROSE-BUD, RED.

Rosa rubrifolia. There is no emblem more significant of youth, beauty, and innocence, than a Rose-bud. The rubrifolia is a native of North America.

MAY YOU EVER BE PURE AND LOVELY.

Be your heart as pure,
Your cheek as bright,
As the spring Rose.

Miss Landon.

SENTIMENT.

I would that thou mightst ever be
As beautiful as now;
That time might ever leave as free
Thy yet unwritten brow!
I would life were all poetry,
To gentle measures set,
That nought but chastened melody
Might dim thine eye of jet.

I would—but deeper things than these
With woman's lot are wove,
Wrought of intenser sympathies,
And nerved by purer love.
By the strong spirit's discipline,
By the fierce wrong forgiven,
By all that wrings the heart of sin,
Is woman won to heaven.

I fear thy gentle loveliness,
 Thy witching tone and air,
And thine eyes beseeching earnestness,
 May be to thee a snare;
For silver stars may purely shine,
 The waters taintless flow;
But they who kneel at woman's shrine
 Breathe on it as they bow;
Ye may fling back the gift again,
But the crushed flower will leave a stain.

WILLIS.

ROSE, RED LEAVED.

Rosa rubrifolia. Native of Switzerland and Savoy. Stem, erect. The whole plant, branches, leaves, stalks, and tube of the calyx, are more or less tinged with red.

BEAUTY AND PROSPERITY.

Here, this Rose,
(This one fresh blown) shall be my Mary's portion,
For that like it her blush is beautiful.

BARRY CORNWALL.

SENTIMENT.

Thou art beautiful, young lady—
But I need not tell thee this;
For few have borne, unconsciously,
Their spell of loveliness;
And thou art very happy,
For life's sky is bright above thee,
Affection's smile is round thee,
And all who know thee love thee.

Thou art not here—and yet methinks
Thy form is floating by,
With the dark tress shading pleasantly
The softly brilliant eye:

A smile is sleeping on thy lip—
And a faint blush melting through
The light of thy transparent cheek,
Like a Rose-leaf bathed in dew.

WHITTIER.

ROSE, CHINESE, DARK.

Rosa semperflorens. Native of China, but naturalized in Europe. Leaflet, of a dark shining green. Flowers, solitary.

FORSAKEN.

Go, lovely Rose,
Tell her that wastes her time and me,
That now she knows
When I resemble her to thee,
How sweet and fair she seems to be.

Then die! that she,
The common fate of all things rare
May read in thee,
How small a part of time they share,
That are so wondrous sweet and fair.

WALLER.

SENTIMENT.

Farewell! the tie is broken. Thou
With all thou wert to me hast parted —
I feel it on my burning brow,
I would not else be broken-hearted.
I may not weep—I cannot sigh,
A weight is pressing on my breast,
A breath breathes on me witheringly,
My tears are dry, my sighs suppressed,
I almost wish my spirit were at rest.

Farewell!—I 've loved thee much!—I feel
That my idolatry was deep;
I know my heart can never heal,
Till in the grave my passions sleep.
Yet I upbraid thee not, my love,
'T was all I had to offer thee,
Love in its lone simplicity.
How could I deem thou wouldst approve,
How hope to draw an angel from above!

WILLIS.

ROSE-BUD, WHITE.

Rosa alba.



TOO YOUNG TO LOVE.

Untouched, upon its thorny stem,
Hangs the pale Rose unfolding.

HURDIS.

SENTIMENT.

Turn to thy books, my gentle girl,
They will not dim thine eyes,
That hair will all as richly curl,
That blush as sweetly rise.

Turn to thy friends—a smile as fond
On friendship's lip may be,
And breathing from a heart as warm
As love can offer thee.

Turn to thy home! affection wreathes
Her dearest garland there,
And, more than all, a mother breathes
For thee—for thee, her prayer.

Too soon—Oh! all too soon, will come
In later years the spell,
Touching with changing hues thy path,
Where once but sunlight fell.

ANON.

ROSE, WHITE.

Rosa alba. The Rose was sacred to Venus, and the fable says was originally white, but, the goddess, being wounded by a thorn, the blood

> On the White Rose being shed,
> Made it for ever after red.

SADNESS.

The bonnie White Rose, it is withering and a'.

ALLAN CUNNINGHAM.

SENTIMENT.

We have long dreamed of happiness, long known
Joys which were more than mortal, long have felt
The bliss of mingled hearts and blended souls,
And long have thought the vision was eternal;
It vanishes, and now I am a wretch,
And what will be thy sorrows none can tell.

PERCIVAL.

ANSWER.

My heart is with its early dream;
It cannot turn away
To seek again the joys of earth,
And mingle with the gay:
The dew-nursed flower, that lifts its brow
Beneath the shades of night,
Must wither when the sunbeam sheds
Its too resplendent light.

My heart is with its early dream,
And vainly love's soft power
Would seek to charm that heart anew,
In some unguarded hour;
I would not that same gentle one
Should hear my frequent sigh;
The deer that bears its death-wound turns
In loneliness to die.

MRS. EMBURY.

ROSE, WHITE, (WITHERED).

Rosa alba. Native of Europe. The bush is five or six feet high. Leaves, dark green. Flowers, usually pure white, but sometimes tinged with a delicate blush.

I AM IN DESPAIR.

A single Rose is shedding
Its lovely lustre meek and pale:
It looks as planted by despair—
So white, so faint—the slightest gale
Might whirl the leaves on high.

BYRON.

SENTIMENT.

O, life and all its charms decay,
Alluring, cheating, on they go;
The stream for ever steals away
In one irrevocable flow;
Its dearest charms, the charms of love,
Are brightest in their bud, and die,
Whene'er their tender bloom we move;
We touch the leaves, they withered lie.

And on with many a step of pain,
Our weary race is sadly run;
And still as on we plod our way,
We find, as life's gay dreams depart,
To close our being's troubled day,
Nought left us but a broken heart.

PERCIVAL.

ROSE, THORNLESS.

Rosa inermis. Native of Switzerland and North America. The stem is five or six feet high, without a prickle. And Lemaistre asserts that the thorns on the other species have been produced by cultivation. Hence the emblem, ingratitude. Flowers, crimson.

INGRATITUDE.

We eye the Rose upon the brier,
Unmindful that the thorn is near.

BURNS.

SENTIMENT.

No! it is not for wasted days I pine,
Nor for my slandered youth's long banishment,
Nor for the wand of fame, so coldly mine,
It seemeth but a thorn in malice rent
From its right root, to wound my heart's content:
My foes I scorn and tread on—but my woe
Is the cold hollowness of friends to know.

LOCKE.

ROSE, YELLOW.

Rosa lutea. The Yellow Rose is a native of Italy. They are both single and double; and have the odour of a pine-apple.

LET US FORGET.

I never heard
Of any true affection, but 'twas nipt
With care, that like the caterpillar eats
The leaves of the spring's sweetest book—the Rose.

MIDDLETON.

SENTIMENT.

I look upon the fading flowers
Thou gavest me, Lady, in thy mirth,
And mourn that with the perishing hours
Such fair things perish from the earth;
For thus, I know, the moment's feeling
Its own light web of life unweaves,
The dearest trace from memory stealing,
Like perfume from their dying leaves—
The thought that gave it and the flower,
Alike the creatures of an hour.
And thus it better were, perhaps—
For feeling is the nurse of pain,
And joys that linger in their lapse
Must die at last—and so are vain.

WILLIS.

ROSE, YORK AND LANCASTER.

Rosa versicola. This species was the common dog Rose—the red adopted by the house of Lancaster—the white by that of York.

WAR.

Long was the strife your ancient race
In Britain's hapless land pursued;
Which for a whole revolving age
Drenched either Rose in kindred blood.

Fable of the White and Red Rose.

SENTIMENT.

Love, we part but to meet,
When our foes shall be trodden like dust at our feet.
No fetters, no tyrants, our souls shall enslave,
While the ocean shall roll, or the harvest shall wave;
We go, to return when the strife shall be done,
When the field shall be fought, and the battle be won;
When the sceptre is smitten, and broken the chain,
We come back in freedom, or come not again.

Our's are no hirelings trained to the fight,
With cymbal and clarion, all glittering and bright;
No prancing of chargers, no martial display,
No war-trump is heard from our silent array;
O'er the proud heads of freemen our star-banner waves,
Men, firm as their mountains, and still as their graves,

To-morrow shall pour out their life-blood like rain;—
We come back in triumph, or come not again.

No fearing, no doubting, thy Soldier shall know,
When here stands his country, and yonder her foe;
One look at the bright sun, one prayer to the sky,
One glance where our banner floats glorious on high:
Then on, as the young lion bounds on his prey;
Let the sword flash on high, fling the scabbard away;
Roll on, like the thunderbolt over the plain;—
We come back in glory, or come not again.

GRAY.

ROSE CAMPION.

Agrostemma githago. Class 10; Order 5. (Corn Cockle). A European genus, naturalized in America—found in corn-fields.

LOVE'S MESSENGERS.

Yonder is a girl who lingers
Where wild honeysuckle grows,
Mingled with the brier Rose.

H. SMITH.

SENTIMENT.

Do you like letter-reading? If you do,
I have some twenty dozen very pretty ones;
Gay, sober, rapturous, solemn, very true,
And very lying stupid ones, and witty ones;
On gilt-edged paper, blue perhaps, or pink,
And frequently in fancy-coloured ink.

And then the seals—a silver crescent moon,
With half a line of melting French or Latin;
The flower which has an eye as bright as noon,
And leaf as delicate as softest satin,
Called the "Forget-me-not," but known as well
By twenty names I cannot stop to tell.

A leaf with half a dozen words, that mean
"I only change in death," a gentle dove,

With an Italian motto. You have seen
Fifty such, if you 've ever been in love,
And had occasion to write billet-doux,
Or had them written in return to you.

SARGENT.

ROSEMARY.

Rosemarinus officinalis. Class 2; Order 1. Indigenous to Europe. An evergreen shrub. Leaves, smooth, dark green, and shining. Flowers, axillary.

REMEMBRANCE.

There is Rosemary, that 's for remembrance;
Pray you, love, remember.

SHAKSPEARE.

SENTIMENT.

There are moments in life that are never forgot,
Which brighten, and brighten, as time steals away;
They give a new charm to the happiest lot,
And they shine on the gloom of the loneliest day:
These moments are hallowed by smiles and by tears,
The first look of love, and the last parting given.

PERCIVAL.

ANSWER.

But then to part! to part, when Time
Has wreathed his tireless wing with flowers,
And spread the richness of a clime
Of faëry o'er this land of our's.
When glistening leaves and shaded streams
In the soft light of autumn lay,
And, like the music of our dreams,
The viewless breezes seemed to stray—

'T was bitter then to rend the heart
With the sad thought that we must part;
And, like some low and mournful spell,
To whisper but one word—farewell!

BENJAMIN.

RUE.

Ruta graveolens. Class 10; Order 1. Indigenous to Europe, but naturalized in America. The whole herb has an acrid pungent smell. Flowers are dull yellow.

DISDAIN.

Here did she drop a tear; here in this place
I'll set a bank of Rue, sour herb of grace.

SHAKSPEARE.

SENTIMENT.

I am one,
Who finds within me a nobility
That spurns the idle pratings of the great,
And their mean boast of what their fathers were,
While they themselves are fools effeminate,
The scorn of all who know the worth of mind
And virtue.

PERCIVAL.

SAFFRON.

Carthamus tinctorius. Class 17; Order 1. Indigenous to Europe and India. Flowers, yellow. The species cœruleus has blue flowers.

MARRIAGE.

They shall wear
The Bridal Saffron; all their locks shall bloom
With garlands; and their blazing nuptial torches
And hymeneal songs prepare the way.

MILMAN.

SENTIMENT.

Far from the home of thy young days,
Thy lot calls thee;
Far from the looks of love that girdled round
Thy infancy.

Thou givest up thy unstained heart,
A priceless dower;
Its treasures lavishing, as summer clouds
Their fulness pour.

* * * * * *

Thy smile shall fill thy husband's home
With sunlike rays,
And on that virgin brow shall light
The matron's grace.

The thought of duties well performed
Shall wing thine hours;
And new affections in thy heart
Shall spring like flowers.

ANON.

SAGE.

Salvia officinalis. Class 2; Order 1. A large genus, and widely disseminated over the world. In warm regions the flowers are large and beautiful. The common garden sage is medicinal. Flowers, bluish.

DOMESTIC VIRTUES.

Cur moriatur homo, cui salvia crescit in horto?
How can a man die in whose garden there grows sage?
Old Proverb.

SENTIMENT.

Howe'er the sceptic scoffs, the poet sighs,
Hope oft reveals her dimly shadowed dreams,
And seraph joy descends from pale blue skies,
And, like sweet sunset on wood-skirted streams,
Peace breathes around her stilling harmonies,
Her whispered music, while her soft eye beams,
And the deep bliss that crowns the household hearth,
From all its woes redeems the bleeding earth.

Hail, ye fair charities! the mellow showers
Of the heart's spring-time! from your rosy breath
The wayworn pilgrim, though the tempest lowers,
Breathes a new being in the realms of Death,

And bears the burden of life's darker hours,
With cheerless aspect o'er the lonely heath,
That spreads between us and the unfading clime,
Where true Love triumphs o'er the death of Time.

FAIRFIELD.

SCABIOUS.

Scabiosa atropurpurea. Class 4; Order 1. Native of India and the South of Europe. Flowers, very sweet — colour, purple red, and variegated. The dark purple has been called "Mourning Bride."

UNFORTUNATE ATTACHMENT.

The Scabious blooms in sad array,
A mourner in her spring.

ANON.

SENTIMENT.

My heart too firmly trusted, fondly gave
Itself to all its tenderness a slave:
I had no wish but thee, and only thee;
I knew no happiness but only while
Thy love-lit eyes were kindly turned on me.

* * * * * *

But thou hast gone, and left me here to bear
The weight of loneliness.

PERCIVAL.

ANSWER.

The human heart! 't is a thing that lives
In the light of many a shrine;
And the gem of its own pure feelings gives
Too oft on brows that are false to shine.

It has many a cloud of care and woe
To shadow o'er its springs,
And the One above alone may know
The changing tune of its thousand strings.

MRS. L. P. SMITH.

SENSITIVE PLANT.

Mimosa sensitiva. Class 16; Order 10. Native of the East and West Indies and South America. There are several species. Flowers, pale purple, contracting at night, and also when touched.

SENSITIVENESS.

Weak with nice sense the chaste Mimosa stands,
And from each touch withdraws her timid hands;
Oft as light clouds o'erpass the summer glade,
Alarmed she trembles at the moving shade.

DARWIN.

SENTIMENT.

Like the Mimosa shrinking from
The blight of some familiar finger —
Like flowers which but in secret bloom,
Where aye the sheltered shadows linger,
And which, beneath the hot noon-ray,
Would fold their leaves and fade away.
The flowers of Love, in secret cherished,
In loneliness and silence nourished,
Shrink backward from the searching eye,
Until the stem whereon they flourished,
Their shrine, the human heart, has perished,
Although themselves may never die.

* * * * * *

Life's sunniest hours are not without
The shadow of some lingering doubt —
Amid its brightest joys will steal
Spectres of evil yet to feel.
Its warmest love is blent with fears,
 Its confidence a trembling one —
Its smile — the harbinger of tears —
 Its hope — the change of April's sun!
A weary lot, in mercy given,
To fit the chastened soul for heaven.

WHITTIER.

SNOWBALL.

Viburnum opulus. Class 5; Order 3. A genus found in Europe, America, and Japan. The kind we cultivate is the European shrub. Cymes, large. Flowers, white; berries, scarlet.

THOUGHTS OF HEAVEN.

The snow-flower tall:
And throwing up, into the darkest gloom
Of neighbouring cypress or more sable yew,
Her silver lobes, light as the foaming surf,
That the wind severs from the broken wave.

COWPER.

SENTIMENT.

Should sorrow o'er thy brow
Its darken'd shadow fling,
And hopes, that cheer thee now,
Die in their early spring;
Should pleasure, at its birth,
Fade like the hues of even,
Turn thou away from earth,
There 's rest for thee in heaven.

If ever life should seem
To thee a toilsome way,
And gladness cease to beam
Upon its clouded day:

If, like the weary dove,
O'er shoreless ocean driven,
Raise thou thine eyes above,
There 's rest for thee in heaven.

But O, if thornless flowers
Throughout thy pathway bloom,
And gaily fleet the hours,
Unstained by earthly gloom;
Still let not every thought
To this poor world be given,
Nor always be forgot
Thy better rest in heaven.

BRIGHT.

SNOWDROP.

Galanthus nivalis. Class 6; Order 1. Native of Europe. There is only one species and two varieties. Flowers, white as milk, and the earliest that appear in the spring.

FRIENDSHIP IN ADVERSITY.

The Snowdrop, herald of the spring,
In storm or sunshine born.

BERNARD BARTON.

SENTIMENT.

We part —
But this shall be a token thou hast been
A friend to him, who plucked these lovely flowers,
And sent them as a tribute to a friend,
And a remembrance of the few kind hours
Which lightened on the darkness of my path.

* * * * * *

The friend
Who smiles when smoothing down the lonely couch,
And does kind deeds, which any one can do,
Who has a feeling spirit, such a friend
Heals with a searching balsam.

PERCIVAL.

SORREL, WILD.

Oxalis. Class 10; Order 5. A large genus found in Europe, America, and the Cape of Good Hope. There is a species in Virginia with pink, lilac, or bright yellow flowers — farther north, it is pale yellow, delicately pencilled with pink or purple.

PARENTAL AFFECTION.

Sorrel, that hangs her cups,
Ere their frail form and streaky veins decay,
O'er her pale verdure, till parental care
Inclines the shortening stems, and to the shade
Of closing leaves her infant race withdraws.

GISBORNE.

SENTIMENT.

The sea of ambition is tempest-tost,
And thy hopes may vanish like foam;
But when sails are shivered and rudder lost,
Then look to the light of home;

And there, like a star through the midnight cloud,
Thou shalt see the beacon bright;
For never, till shining on thy shroud,
Can be quenched its holy light.

The sun of fame — 't will gild the name,
But the heart ne'er felt its ray;
And fashion's smiles, that rich ones claim,
Are but beams of a wintry day!

And how cold and dim those beams would be,
Should life's wretched wanderer come!
But, my son, when the world is dark to thee,
Then turn to the light of home.

MRS. HALE.

SPEEDWELL.

Veronica. Class 2; Order 1. Common to Europe, America, and Northern Asia. The Virginia Speedwell is very beautiful. Flowers, white, blue, blush-coloured, or purple.

FEMALE FIDELITY.

I saw, upon the mountain height
And 'mid the mountain air,
Veronica her flowers put forth
As garden blossoms fair,
Like faithful love that blooms to bless
A palace or a wilderness.

ANON.

SENTIMENT.

The mild deep gentleness, the smile that throws
Light from the bosom o'er the pure pale brow,
And cheek that flushes like the May-morn rose;
The all-reposing sympathies that grow
Like violets in the heart, and o'er our woes
The silent breathings of their beauty throw.
Oh! every deed of daily life doth prove
The depth, the strength, the truth, of woman's love.

Then, side by side, hearts wedded in their youth,
In their meek blessedness expand and glow;
And though the world be faithless, still their truth
No pause, no change, no soil of time, may know!

They hold communion with a world, in sooth,
Beyond the stain of sin, the waste of woe;
And the deep sanctities of well-spent hours
Crown their fair fame with Eden's deathless flowers.

FAIRFIELD.

STAR OF BETHLEHEM.

Ornithogalum. Class 6; Order 1. An extensive genus, chiefly indigenous to the south of Europe, Siberia, and the Cape of Good Hope. Umbellatum is the only American species. Roots, bulbous. Flowers, white. Six petals — no calyx.

RECONCILIATION.

Pale as a pensive cloistered nun,
The Bethlehem star her face unveils,
When o'er the mountain peers the sun,
But shades it from the vesper gales.

SMITH.

SENTIMENT.

I trust the frown thy features wear
Ere long into a smile will turn;
I would not that a face as fair
As thine, beloved, should look so stern.
The chain of ice that winter binds,
Holds not for aye the sparkling rill;
It melts away when summer shines,
And leaves the waters sparkling still;
Thus let thy cheek resume the smile
That shed such sunny light before;
And, though I left thee for awhile,
I 'll vow to leave thee, love, no more.

LEGGETT.

ST.-JOHN'S-WORT.

Hypericum. Class 18; Order 4. A genus of at least one hundred species, dispersed over the world. Flowers, yellow and brilliant. The plant possesses medicinal properties.

ANIMOSITY.

Hypericum was there, the herb of war,
Pierced through with wounds and seamed with many a scar.

Garland of Flora.

SENTIMENT.

Let my curse be upon him —
The faithless of heart!
Let the smiles that have won him
In frowning depart!
Let his last cherished blossom
Of sympathy die,
And the hopes of his bosom
In shadows go by!
Ay, curse him, but keep
The poor boon of his breath,
Till he sigh for the sleep
And the quiet of death!
Let a viewless one haunt him,
With whisper and jeer,
And an evil one daunt him
With phantoms of fear.

Be the fiend unforgiving,
 That follows his tread,
Let him walk with the living,
 Yet gaze on the dead!

WHITTIER.

SUMACH, VENICE.

Rhus cotinus. Class 5; Order 3. A pretty extensive genus, and found in all temperate climates. The species cultivated in gardens has elongated, feathery footstalks. Flowers, greenish or purplish; berries, red. The leaves and stalks, when bruised, aromatic.

INTELLECTUAL EXCELLENCE.

There's charms that live when youth is past,
More pure than decked its brightest hours:
Like Rhus that shows, in autumn's blast,
A fruitage fairer than the flowers.

ANON.

SENTIMENT.

Ay, for the soul is better than its frame,
The spirit than its temple. Beauty gives
The features perfectness, and to the form
Its delicate proportions: she may stain
The eye with a celestial blue — the cheek
With carmine of the sunset: she may breathe
Grace into every motion, like the play
Of the least visible tissue of a cloud:
She may give all that is within her own
Bright cestus, and one glance of intellect,
Like stronger magic, will outshine it all.

* * * * * *

The glory of the human form
Is but a perishing thing, and Love will droop

When its brief grace hath faded. But the mind
Perisheth not, and, when the outward charm
Hath had its brief existence, it awakes,
And is the lovelier that it slept so long,
Like wells that by the wasting of their flow
Have had their deeper fountains broken up.

WILLIS.

SUNFLOWER, DWARF.

Helianthus indicus. **Class 19; Order 3. Exclusively indigenous to the Americas, except two species in India and Egypt. The Indicus is cultivated in gardens. Flowers, bright yellow, and turn with the sun.**

YOUR DEVOTED ADORER.

The Sunflower turns to her God, when he sets,
The same look which she turned when he rose.

MOORE.

SENTIMENT.

As turns
The flower to meet the sun,
E'en though, when clouds and storms arise,
It be not shone upon,
Thus, dear one, in thine eyes I see
The only light that beams for me.

As thinks
The mariner of home,
When doomed through many a dreary waste
Of waters yet to roam,
Thus doth my spirit turn to thee,
My guiding star o'er life's wild sea.

As bends
The Persian at the shrine

Of his resplendent god, to watch
His earliest glories shine;
Thus doth my spirit bow to thee,
My heart's own radiant deity.

MRS. EMBURY.

SUNFLOWER, TALL.

Helianthus annuus. Same class and order as preceding. Native of Mexico and Peru. In those countries it is said to grow to the height of twenty feet, and the flowers are two feet broad.

LOFTY AND PURE THOUGHTS.

Great Helianthus climbs the upland lawn,
And bows in homage to the rising dawn,
Imbibes with eagle eye the golden ray,
And watches, as it moves, the orb of day.

DARWIN.

SENTIMENT.

She had a mind
Deep and immortal, and it would not feed
On pageantry. She thirsted for a spring
Of a serener element, and drank
Philosophy, and for a little while
She was allayed, till presently it turned
Bitter within her, and her spirit grew
Faint for undying waters. Then she came
To the pure fount of God, and is athirst
No more, save when the "fever of the world"
Falleth upon her, she will go and breathe
A holy aspiration after heaven.

WILLIS.

SWEETBRIAR.

Rosa suaveolens. Class 12; Order 13. The American Sweetbriar has pale pink flowers, small and often solitary. Foliage, very fragrant.

SIMPLICITY.

Yes, lovely flower, I find in thee
Wild sweetness which no words express,
And charms in thy simplicity,
That dwell not in the pride of dress.

LANGHORNE.

SENTIMENT.

Oh, much I fear thy guileless heart, its earnestness of feeling,
Its passions and its sympathies to every eye revealing;
I tremble for that winning smile, and trusting glance of thine,
And pray that none but faithful ones may bow before thy shrine.

Oh! when the breath of flattery is warm upon thine ear,
And manly brows are bending in humble homage near,
May no dream of tenderness arise, which earth may not fulfil,
And no fountain open in thy heart which Time hath power to chill.

WHITTIER.

SWEET WILLIAM.

Dianthus barbatus. Class 10; Order 2. The species Dianthus barbatus indigenous to Germany, but naturalized in our country. Flowers, aggregate, one stem supporting a large and brilliant bunch of blossoms. Root, perennial.

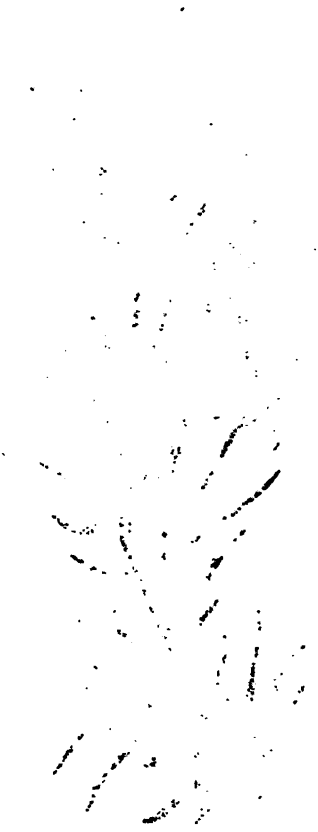
A SMILE.

I like this flower, Sweet William, on its leaf
The smile the giver wore I see,
And though that smile, so sweet, was passing brief,
This simple flower can fix its memory.

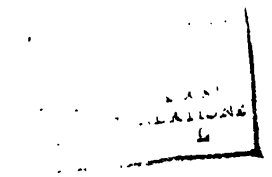
ANON.

SENTIMENT.

A human smile! how beautiful
Sometimes its blissful presence seems,
Sweet as the gentle airs which lull
To sleep the holy flowers of Gul,
Which blossom in the Persian's dreams,
A lovely light whene'er it beams
On beauty's brow, in beauty's eye,
And not one token lingers nigh,
On lip, or eye, or cheek unbidden,
To tell of anguish vainly hidden!
But, oh! there is a smile which steals
Sometimes upon the brow of care,
And, like the North's cold light, reveals
But gathering darkness there.







You 've seen the lightning-flash, at night,
 Play briefly o'er its cloudy pile,
The moonshine tremble on the height,
Where winter glistens cold and bright,
And like that flash, and like that light,
 Is sorrow's vain and heartless smile.

WHITTIER.

SYRINGA, CAROLINA.

Philadelphus inodorus. Class 12; Order 1. This species of the mock Orange is a native of the Southern States. Flowers, scentless, large, four white oval petals, spreading open. The species grandiflorus is found also at the South.

DISAPPOINTMENT.

Not every flower that blossoms bright
Diffuses sweets around;
Not every scene hope gilds with light
Will fair be found.

ANON.

SENTIMENT.

They are mockery all — these skies, these skies,
Their untroubled depth of blue —
They are mockery all — those eyes, those eyes,
Which seem so warm and true;
Each tranquil star in the one that lies,
Each meteor glance that at random flies
The other's lashes through;
They are mockery all, these flowers of spring,
Which her airs so softly woo,
And the love to which we would madly cling,
Ay! it is mockery too:
The winds are false which the perfume stir,
And the looks deceive to which we sue,
And love but leads to the sepulchre,
Which flowers spring to strew.

HALLECK.

THISTLE, COMMON.

Cardwus camsolatus. Class 19; Order 1. This large genus is found in the temperate regions of the Northern hemisphere, chiefly in Europe. Flowers, purple.

MISANTHROPY.

Tough Thistle choked the fields and killed the corn,
And an unthrifty crop of weeds was born.

DRYDEN.

SENTIMENT.

Had I but pearls of price — did golden piles
 Of hoarded wealth swell in my treasury,
Easy I'd win the fawning flatterer's smiles,
 And bend the sturdiest Stoic's iron knee,
 For gold alone buys this world's courtesy.
I grieve not that my gold could buy their grace,
But that a MAN should need a toy so base.

Oh! for an island in the boundless deep!
 Where rumour of the world might never come;
Oh! for a cave where weltering waves might keep
 Eternal music, round which night-winds roam,
 Mixing incessant with the surging foam:
Here might I rest and smile in liberty,
Forgotten live, since I unwept must die.

LOCKE.

ANSWER.

'T is not well
To let the spirit brood
Thus darkly o'er the cares that swell
Life's current to a flood.
As brooks, and torrents, rivers, all,
Increase the gulf in which they fall,
Such thoughts, by gathering up the rills
Of lesser griefs, spread real ills;
And, with their gloomy shades, conceal
The landmarks Hope would else reveal.

ANON.

THORN-APPLE.

Datura strammonium. Class 5; Order 1. Found in Europe, but probably a native of South America, though now naturalized in Europe and the East. Flowers, white and blue, very beautiful, but poisonous. The plant has lately been used as a medicine, and appears to operate specifically upon the optic nerve of the eye.

I DREAMED OF THEE.

Canst thou give visions of futurity,
Strammonium, in the deep and death-like trance
Thy potent spell upon the spirit binds?
Let them be pleasant. I would die in hope.

ANON.

SENTIMENT.

Thy head was on my shoulder leaning;
Thy hand in mine was gently prest;
Thine eyes, so soft and full of meaning,
Were bent on me, and I was blest.

No word was spoken, all was feeling,
The silent transport of the heart;
The tear that o'er thy cheek was stealing
Told what words could ne'er impart.

And could this be but mere illusion?
Could fancy all so real seem?
Here fancy's scenes are wild confusion,
And can it be I did but dream?

I 'm sure I felt thy forehead pressing,
Thy very breath stole o'er my cheek ;
I'm sure I saw those eyes confessing
What the tongue could never speak.

Ah ! no, 't is gone, 't is gone, and never
Mine such waking bliss can be ;
Oh, I would sleep, would sleep for ever,
Could I thus but dream of thee !

FRISBIE.

THYME.

Thymus serpyllum. Class 14; Order 1. A genus indigenous to the south of Europe, naturalized in America and England. Flowers, blue and purple; stems, creeping.

THRIFTINESS.

The thrifty Thyme a home can find,
Where smiles the sun and breathes the wind.

ANON.

SENTIMENT.

The churl who holds it heresy to think,
Who loves no music but the dollar's clink,
Who laughs to scorn the wisdom of the schools,
And deems the first of poets first of fools,
Who never found what good from science grew,
Save the grand truth, that one and one make two,
'T is he, across whose brain scarce dares to creep
Aught but thrift's parent pair — to get, to keep!

* * * * * *

How cold he hearkens to some bankrupt's woe,
Nods his wise head, and cries, "I told you so;
The thriftless fellow lived beyond his means,
He must buy brants, I made my folks eat beans."

SPRAGUE.

ANSWER.

Ye may plant the living flowers
 Where the living fountains glide,
And beneath the rosy bowers
 Let the selfish man abide:
And the birds upon the wing,
 And the barks upon the wave,
Shall no sense of freedom bring;
 All is slavery to the slave;
Mammon's close-linked bonds have bound him,
 Self-imposed and seldom burst,
Though heaven's waters gushed around him,
 He would pine with earth's poor thirst.

MRS. HALE.

TUBEROSE.

Polyanthes tuberosa. Class 2; Order 6. Native of the East Indies and South America. Flowers, white, sometimes tinged with pink — resembles a hyacinth — very odoriferous. Corolla, monopetalous. No calyx. Root, perennial.

A SWEET VOICE.

Eternal spring, with smiling verdure here,
Warms the mild air, and crowns the youthful year;
The Tuberose ever breathes and violets blow.

GARTH.

SENTIMENT.

If you have seen a summer star,
Liquidly soft, and faintly far,
Beaming a smiling glance on earth,
As if it watched the floweret's birth,
Then you have seen a light less fair
Than that young maiden's glances were.
Dark fell her tresses — you have seen
A rent cloud tossing in the air
And showing the pure sky, between
Its floating fragments here and there;
Then you may fancy, faintly, how
The falling tress, the ring-like curl,
Disclosed or shadowed o'er the brow
And neck of that fair girl.

Her cheek was delicately thin,
And through its pure, transparent white,
The rose hue wandered out and in,
As you have seen the inconstant light
Flush o'er the Northern sky of night.
Her playful lip was gently full,
Soft curving to the graceful chin,
And coloured like the fruit which glows
Upon the sunned pomegranate boughs;
And, oh! her soft, low voice might lull
The spirit to a dream of bliss,
As if the voices sweet and bland,
Which murmur in the seraph land,
Were warbling in a world like this.

WHITTIER.

TULIP, RED.

Tulipa gesneriana. Class 6; Order 1. Native of Persia. Flowers, in their wild state, crimson — corolla, bell-shaped with six petals. No calyx. Sweet-scented.

A DECLARATION OF LOVE.

Tulip, whose leaves with their ruby glow
Hide the heart that lies burning and black below.

SENTIMENT.

If spirits, pure as those who kneel
Around the throne of light above,
The power of Beauty's spell could feel,
And lose a heaven for woman's love;
What marvel that a heart like mine
Enraptured by thy charms should be;
Forget to bend at glory's shrine,
And lose itself, ay heaven, for thee!

Memorial.

ANSWER.

What is a poet's love?
To write a girl a sonnet,
To get a ring, or some such thing,
And fustianize upon it.

* * * * * *
* * * * * *

Trust not to them who say,
In stanzas, they adore thee;
O, rather sleep in churchyard clay,
With maudlin cherubs o'er thee!

HOLMES.

TULIP, VARIEGATED.

Tulipa. Class and Order as the preceding. The method of making a Tulip variegated, or striped, is by transplanting it from a rich soil to one meagre and sandy. It weakens the plant.

BEAUTIFUL EYES.

Tulips, with every colour that shines
In the radiant gems of Serendib's mines.

Garland of Flora.

SENTIMENT.

The bright black eye, the melting blue,
I cannot choose between the two.
Ah! many lids Love lurks between,
Nor heeds the colouring of his screen;
And when his random arrows fly,
The victim falls, but knows not why.
Gaze not upon his shield of jet,
The shaft upon the string is set;
Look not beneath his azure veil,
Though every limb were cased in mail.

Well, both might make a martyr break
The chain that bound him to the stake;
And both with but a single ray
Can melt our very hearts away;

And both, when balanced, hardly seem
To stir the scales, or rock the beam ;
But that is dearest, all the while,
Which wears for us the sweetest smile.

HOLMES.

TULIP-TREE.

Liriodendron tulipifera. Class 13; Order 13. The American Tulip-Tree, or yellow poplar, bears a flower resembling a small tulip, variegated with yellow and orange. The bark of this tree is aromatic, and it is celebrated besides for its size and beauty.

FAME.

Fame's bright star and glory's swell
In the flowers of the Tulip Tree are given.

PERCIVAL.

SENTIMENT.

Come! shake your trammels off! let fools rehearse
Their loves and raptures in unmeaning chime;
Cram close their crude conceits, in mawkish verse,
And torture hackneyed thoughts in tuneless rhyme;
But thou shalt soar in glorious verse sublime!
With heavenly voice of music, strength, and fire,
Waft wide the wonders of thy native clime;
With patriot pride each patriot heart inspire,
Till Europe's bards are mute before Columbia's lyre.

'T is true no fairies haunt our "verdant meads,"
No grinning imps deform our blazing hearth:
Beneath the kelpie's fang no traveller bleeds,
No gory vampires taint our holy earth,

No spectres stalk to frighten harmless mirth,
 Nor tortured demon howls amid the gale;
Fair reason checks those monsters in their birth:
 Yet have we lay of love and horrid tale
 Would dim the manliest eye and make the bravest
 pale.

And there are scenes to touch the poet's soul,
 And deeds of arms to wake the lordly strain.
Shall Hudson's billows unregarded roll?
 Has Warren fought, Montgomery died, in vain?
Shame! that, while every mountain, shore, and plain,
 Hath theme for truth's proud voice, or fancy's wand,
No native bard the patriot harp hath ta'en,
 But left to minstrel of a foreign strand
 To sing the beauteous scenes of Nature's loveliest
 land!

J. R. DRAKE.

VERVAIN.

Verbena fustata. Class 14; Order 2. An American genus with one exception, the species officinalis, found in Europe. Flowers, deep or pale blue, abundant in the North-western territories.

SENSIBILITY.

Verbena, in thy pensive grace,
The emblem of the feeling heart I trace.

ANON.

SENTIMENT.

Gentle as angel's ministry
The guiding hand of love should be,
Which seeks again those cords to bind,
 Which human woe hath rent apart—
To heal again the wounded mind,
 And bind anew the broken heart.
The hand which tunes to harmony
 The cunning harp, whose strings are riven,
Must move as light and quietly
 As that meek breath of summer heaven,
Which woke, of old, its melody:
And kindness to the dim of soul,
Whilst aught of rude and stern controul,
The clouded heart can deeply feel,
 Is welcome as the odours fanned
 From some unseen and flowery land,
Around the weary seaman's keel.

WHITTIER.

VERNAL GRASS.

Anthoxanthum. Class 3; Order 2. Native of Europe and India. The Anthoxanthum odoratum is naturalized in America. Sweet-scented.

WE MAY BE POOR, BUT WE WILL BE HAPPY.

Two gentle shepherds, and their sister wives,
With thee, Anthoxa, lead ambrosial lives;
Closed in a green recess, unenvied lot!
The blue smoke rises from their turf-built cot:
Bosomed in fragrance, blush their infant train,
Eye the warm sun, or drink the silver rain.

DARWIN.

SENTIMENT.

Joy for the present moment! joy to-day!
Why look we to the morrow?
Mingle me bitters to drive cares away;
Nothing on earth can be for ever gay,
And free from sorrow.

My purse is very slim, and very few
The acres that I number;
But I am seldom stupid, never blue;
My riches are an honest heart and true,
And quiet slumber.

SARGENT.

VIOLET, BLUE.

Viola odorata. **Class 5; Order 1. The genus Viola within its proper limits is almost equally divided between Europe and the temperate parts of North America. Flowers, bright blue.**

FAITHFULNESS.

Violet is for faithfulness,
Which in me shall abide;
Hoping likewise that from your heart
You will not let it slide.

SHAKSPEARE'S *Sonnets*.

SENTIMENT.

And wert thou other than thou art—
Less generous, kind, confiding,
The love that lives in my true heart
Were not the less abiding.
E'en thy neglect I might sustain,
'T would chill my heart, not break it;
Its tenderness would still remain,
Thy falsehood could not shake it.

MRS. A. M. WELLS.

VIOLET, WHITE.

Viola blanda. Class 5; Order 1. This species has very odorous flowers.

MODESTY.

It has a scent as though Love, for its dower,
Had on it all his odorous arrows tost;
For, though the rose has more perfuming power,
The Violet (haply 'cause 't is almost lost,
And takes us so much trouble to discover),
Stands first with most, and always with a lover.

BARRY CORNWALL.

SENTIMENT.

The maid, whose manners are retired,
Who patient waits to be admired,
Though overlooked, perhaps, awhile
Her modest worth, her modest smile,
O, she will find, or soon or late,
A noble, fond, and faithful mate,
Who, when the spring of life is gone,
And all its blooming flowers are flown,
Will bless old Time, who left behind
The graces of a virtuous mind.

* * * * * *

'T is Nature moulds the touching face,
'T is she that gives the living grace,

The genuine charm that never dies,
The modest air, the timid eyes,
The stealing glance, that wins its way
To where the soul's affections lay;—
'T is Nature, and 't is she alone,
That gives the bright celestial zone—
The zone of Modesty, the charm
That coldest hearts can quickest warm;
Which all our best affections gains,
And, gaining, ever still retains.

PAULDING.

VIOLET, YELLOW.

Viola Nuttalli. The only species of Viola found on the plains of Missouri, from the confluence of the river Platte to Fort Mandan. Flowers, small, yellow, purplish on the under side.

RURAL HAPPINESS.

When beechen buds begin to swell,
And woods the blue-birds warble know,
The Yellow Violet's smiling bell
Peeps from the last year's leaves below.

BRYANT.

SENTIMENT.

How cheap
Is genuine happiness, and yet how dearly
Do we all pay for its base counterfeit!
We fancy wants, which to supply we dare
Danger and death, enduring the privation
Of all free nature offers in her bounty,
To attain that, which, in its full fruition,
Brings but satiety. The poorest man
May taste of nature in her elements,
Pure, wholesome, never cloying; while the richest
From the same stores does but elaborate
A pungent dish of well-concocted poison.
Thanks to my humble nature, while I 've limbs,
Tastes, senses, I 'm determined to be rich;
So long as that fine alchemist, the sun,

Can transmute into gold whate'er I like
On earth, in air, or water! while a banquet
Is ever spread before me, in a hall
Of Heaven's own building, perfumed with the breath
Of Nature's self, and ringing to the sounds
Of her own choristers.

BARKER.

VIRGIN'S BOWER.

Clematis viorna. Class 13; Order 13. A genus of about thirty species, distributed over the world — several indigenous to America. The Clematis Viorna found in the Southern States. Root, perennial. Flowers, purple. There is a kind with white flowers.

FILIAL LOVE.

And gently, as Clematis' clasping stem
Twines the sear leaf, and screens it from the blast,
So filial hearts their tender care must cast
Around the mother-plant that once supported them.

ANON.

SENTIMENT.

Yes, I have left the golden shore,
Where childhood midst the roses played:
Those sunny dreams will come no more,
That youth a long bright Sabbath made.

Yet, while those dreams of memory's eye
Arise in many a glittering train,
My soul goes back to infancy,
And hears my mother's song again!

And while my soul retains the power
To think upon each faded year,
In every bright or shadowed hour,
My heart shall hold my mother dear.

The hills may tower—the waves may rise,
And roll between my home and me;
Yet shall my quenchless memories
Turn with undying love to thee.

CLARK.

WALLFLOWER.

Cheiranthus cheiri. Class 15; Order 2. A genus found mostly in Europe and Asia, a few native species in America. Flowers, in the form of a cross—yellow, and of sweet perfume. It grows often, in the old world, around decaying buildings, falling towers, &c.

FIDELITY IN MISFORTUNE.

Not in prosperity's bright morn,
Cheiranthus' golden light
Is lent, her splendours to adorn,
And make them still more bright:
But, in adversity's dark hour,
When glory is gone by,
It then exerts its gentle power
The scene to beautify.

BERNARD BARTON.

SENTIMENT.

Yes, love! my breast at sorrow's call
Shall tremble like thine own;
If from those eyes the tear-drops fall,
They shall not fall alone.
Our souls, like Heaven's aërial bow,
Blend every light within their glow,
Of joy or sorrow known;
And grief, divided with thy heart,
Were sweeter far than joy apart.

ANON.

WATER LILY, WHITE.

Nymphæa odorata. Class 13; Order 1. Two species, the alba and odorata, indigenous to the United States. The genus is principally found in Europe and India. Very splendid. Flowers, white usually, sometimes red, and in one species blue.

PURITY OF HEART.

Innocence shines in the Lily's bell,
Pure as a heart in its native heaven.

PERCIVAL.

SENTIMENT.

Innocent maid, and snow-white flower,
Well are ye paired in your opening hour;
Thus should the pure and the lovely meet,
Stainless with stainless, and sweet with sweet.

White as those leaves, just blown apart,
Are the folds of thy own pure heart:
Guilty passion and cankering care
Never have left their traces there.

* * * * * *

Throw it aside in thy weary hour;
Throw to the ground the fair white flower;
Yet, as thy smiling years depart,
Keep that white and innocent heart.

BRYANT.

WILLOW, WEEPING.

Salix Babylonica. Class 22; Order 2. This large genus of more than one hundred and thirty species is chiefly found in Europe and America. The Salix Babylonica is most cultivated.

FORSAKEN LOVER.

In love, the sad forsaken wight
The Willow garland weareth.

DRAYTON.

SENTIMENT.

Little know
The cold, unfeeling crowd, how strong the love,
The first warm love of youth; how long it lives
Unfed and unrequited; how it bears
Absence and cruel scorn, and still looks calm.

* * * * * *

Her heart was chilled;
And, dead to all its softest sympathies,
It cherished but one feeling, hopeless love,
Love stronger by endurance, ever growing
With the decay of life and all its powers.

PERCIVAL.

WITCH HAZEL.

Hamamelis Virginica. Class 4; Order 2. An American genus. Flowers in the autumn, and perfects fruit the next summer. Colour of the flowers, yellow. Twigs of the Witch Hazel have been used as divining rods to discover secret treasures and ines.

A SPELL.

Mysterious plant! whose golden tresses wave,
With a sad beauty in the dying year,
Blooming amid November's frost severe,
Like a pale corpse-light o'er the recent grave—
If shepherds tell us true, thy wand hath power,
With gracious influence to avert the harm
Of ominous planets.

ANON.

SENTIMENT.

Our Witches are no longer old,
And wrinkled beldames, Satan-sold,
But young and gay and laughing creatures,
With the heart's sunshine on their features—
Their sorcery—the light which dances
When the raised lid unveils its glances;
And the low-breathed and gentle tone,
Faintly responding unto our's,
Soft, dream-like, as a fairy's moan,
Above its nightly closing flowers.

WHITTIER.

WHEAT.

Triticum cosiuum. Class 3; Order 2. It is supposed the species Sativum originated in Egypt. The genus seems mostly European. Cultivated.

PROSPERITY.

Ceres, the goddess of the harvest, bears
A nodding garland of the ripened ears,
Betokening prosperous days.

ANON.

SENTIMENT.

What shouldst thou have ever known
Of that blind Goddess which deludes the world?
Or what of Care? Oh, if the joys of life
Are linked with wealth, and fortune's gifts alone
Can make us happy, then the cup of life
Is full to overflowing!

H. PICKERING.

ANSWER.

My life has been like summer skies,
When they are fair to view;
But there never yet were hearts or skies
Clouds might not wander through.

MRS. L. P. SMITH.

WOODBINE.

Lonicera periclymenon. Class 5; Order 1. The same genus as the honeysuckle. Exotic. Flowers, white, or pale red. Very fragrant.

FRATERNAL LOVE.

And though that were chapelets on their hede
Of freshe Woodbind be such as never were
To love untrue in word, in thought, in dede.

CHAUCER.

SENTIMENT.

Yes, dear one, to the envied train
Of those around thy homage pay,
But wilt thou never kindly deign
To think of him that's far away?
Thy form, thine eye, thine angel smile,
For many years I may not see;
But wilt thou not sometimes the while,
My sister dear, remember me?

* * * * * *

Remember me, I pray—but not
In Flora's gay and blooming hour,
When every brake hath found its note,
And sunshine smiles in every flower;
But when the fallen leaf is sear,
And withers sadly from the tree,

And o'er the ruins of the year
Cold autumn weeps, remember me.

* * * * * *

Remember me—not, I intreat,
In scenes of festal week-day joy;
For then it were not kind or meet
Thy thoughts thy pleasure should alloy;
But on the sacred Sabbath day,
And, dearest, on thy bended knee,
When thou for those thou lov'st dost pray,
Sweet sister, then remember me.

EVERETT.

WOOD SORREL.

Oxalis. Class 10; Order 5. Chiefly found in the East — though a few species are natives of America. The variety cultivated for its beauty is from China. Flowers, yellow, white, &c. pencilled with crimson.

MATERNAL TENDERNESS.

Sorrel, that hangs her cups,
Ere their frail form and streaky veins decay,
O'er her pale verdure, till parental care
Inclines the shortening stems, and to the shade
Of closing leaves her infant race withdraws.

GISBORNE.

SENTIMENT.

It hath passed, my daughter! fare thee well!
Pledged is the faith, inscribed the vow;
Yet let these gushing tear-drops speak
Of all thy mother's anguish now;
And when, on distant stranger shores,
Love beams from brighter eyes than mine,
When other hands thy tresses weave,
And other lips are pressed to thine—

O, then remember her who grieves
With parent fondness for her child
Whose lonely path of thee bereft
Is like some desert lone and wild,

Where erst a simple floweret grew,
 Where erst one timid wild bird sung;
Now lonely, dark, and desolate,
 No bird nor flower its shades among.

When care shall dim thy sunny eye,
 And one by one the ties are broken
That bind thee to the earth, this kiss
 Will linger yet — thy mother's token;
'T will speak her changeless love for thee,
 Speak what she strives in vain to tell,
The yearnings of a parent's heart—
 My darling child, farewell! farewell!

ANON.

YARROW.

Achillea millefolium. Class 19; Order 11. Native of Europe. Naturalized in America. Flowers, white; rays, yellow. Plant, reputed medicinal.

CURE FOR THE HEART-ACHE.

The Yarrow, wherewithal he stopped the wound-made gore.

DRAYTON.

SENTIMENT.

Rapture is not the aim of man; in flowers
The serpent hides his venom, and the sting
Of the dread insect lurks in fairest bowers.
We were not made to wander on the wing;
But, if we would be happy, we must bring
Our buoyed hearts to a plain and simple school.

PERCIVAL.

ANSWER.

Yes, fair as the Siren, but false as her song,
The world's painted shadows, that lure us along;
Like the mist on the mountain, the foam on the deep,
Or the voices of friends, that we greet in our sleep,
Are the pleasures of earth, and I mourn that to heaven
I gave not the heart which to folly was given.

MRS. HALE.

YEW.

Taxus. Class 21; Order 16. A genus of nine species, found in Japan and the Cape of Good Hope, in Europe and the Americas. A tree associated with melancholy and funereal gloom.

PENITENCE.

The mourning Yew, that breathes of gloomy care,
Of early doom, and penitential prayer.

ANON.

SENTIMENT.

We will not ask what thorn has found
Keen entrance to thy bosom fair,
If love hath dealt a deathless wound,
Or deeper folly woke despair.

We only say, the sinless clime,
On which is bent thy streaming eye,
Hath pardon for the darkest crime,
Though erring man the boon deny.

We only say, the prayerful breast,
The crystal tear of contrite pain,
Have power to ope the portal blest,
Where pride and pomp have toiled in vain.

ANON.

ZINNIA.

Zinnia multiflora. Class 19; Order 2. Native of South America, except the species Multiflora. Found on the banks of the Mississippi; flowers, solitary, red; rays, red or yellow. Some of this genus in Peru have purple or yellow flowers.

ABSENCE.

The Zinnia's solitary flower,
Which blooms in forests lone and deep,
Is like the visions fresh and bright,
That faithful, absent hearts will keep.

ANON.

SENTIMENT.

I formed for thee a small bouquet,
A keepsake near thy heart to lay,
Because 't is there, I know full well,
That charity and kindness dwell.
And, in some lonely silent hour,
When thou shalt yield to memory's power,
And let her fondly lead thee o'er
The scenes that thou hast passed before,
To absent friends and days gone by—
Then should these meet thy pensive eye,
A true memento may they be,
Of one whose bosom owes to thee
So many hours enjoyed in gladness,
That else perhaps had passed in sadness,

And many a golden dream of joy,
Untarnished, and without alloy;—
O, still my fervent prayer will be,
"Heaven's choicest blessings rest on thee!"

Miss Gould.

THE

POESY OF FLOWERS.

THE SWEETBRIAR.

Our sweet, autumnal, western-scented wind
 Robs of its odours none so sweet a flower,
In all the blooming waste it left behind,
 As that the Sweetbriar yields it; and the shower
Wets not a rose that buds in beauty's bower
 One half so lovely;—yet it grows along
The poor girl's pathway, by the poor man's door,
 Such are the simple folks it dwells among,
And humble as the bud, so humble be the song.

I love it, for it takes its untouched stand,
 Not in the vase that sculptors decorate;
Its sweetness all is of my native land;
 And e'en its fragrant leaf has not its mate
Among the perfumes which the rich and great
 Buy from the odours of the spicy East.

You love your flowers and plants, and will you hate
The little four-leaved rose that I love best,
That freshest will awake, and sweetest go to rest?

J. G. C. BRAINARD.

THE FLOWER SPIRIT.

I am the Spirit that dwells in the flower;
Mine is the exquisite music that flies,
When silence and moonlight reign over each bower,
That blooms in the glory of tropical skies.
I woo the bird, with his melody glowing,
To flit in the sunshine and warble its strain,
And mine is the odour, in turn, that bestowing,
The songster is paid for his music again.

There dwells no sorrow where I am abiding,
Care is a stranger and troubles us not,
And the winds as they pass, when too hastily riding,
I woo, and they tenderly glide o'er the spot.
They pause, and we glow in their rugged embraces,
They drink our warm breath rich with odour and song,
Then hurry away to their desolate places,
And look for us hourly, and think of us long.

Who of the dull earth that 's moving around us
Would ever imagine that, nursed in a rose,
At the opening of spring our destiny found us
A prisoner until the first bud should unclose:
Then, as the dawn of light breaks upon us,
Our winglets of silk we unfold to the air,
And leap off in joy to the music that won us,
And made us the tenants of climates so fair?

TO THE FRINGED GENTIAN.

Thou blossom bright with autumn dew,
And coloured with the heaven's own blue,
Thou openest when the quiet light
Succeeds the keen and frosty night.

Thou comest not when violets lean
O'er wandering brooks and springs unseen,
Or columbines, in purple drest,
Nod o'er the ground-bird's hidden nest.

Thou waitest late, and com'st alone,
When woods are bare, and birds are flown,
And frosts and shortening days portend
The aged year is near its end.

Then doth thy sweet and quiet eye
Look through its fringes to the sky,
Blue — blue — as if that sky let fall
A flower from its cerulean wall.

I would that thus, when I shall see
The hour of death draw near to me,
Hope, blossoming within my heart,
May look to heaven as I depart.

BRYANT.

TO THE TRAILING ARBUTUS.*

Thou comest when Spring her coronal weaves,
And thou hidest thyself mid dead strewn leaves;
Where the young grass lifts its tender blade,
Thy home and thy resting place are made;
And, in the spot of thy lowly birth,
Unseen, thou bloomest, like modest worth:
The richest jewel, the rarest gem,
May never glow in a diadem.

What knowest thou of the glittering pride
Of vales that blush, like a jewelled bride—
When the pomp of roses and gilded flowers
Springs mid the falling of Summer showers?
What canst thou know of those breathing skies,
Adorned with the diamonds of Paradise—
Or the sunrise crown, or the golden flow
Of noontide streams, in their deep warm glow?

Thou comest from Winter's cold caress,
To rejoice in the young Spring's loveliness:
But thou seest the sky when the cloud appears,
And the blue eye of heaven is dim with tears;
And, cold and clear o'er thy dewy bed,
The starbeam lustre of night is shed;

* The Trailing Arbutus is a sort of strawberry vine, found in New England in March, the earliest of all spring flowers.

And no bright-tinting flashes are seen,
Though morn be cloudless and eve serene.

Yet, flower of Modesty, born alone—
When the leaves of Autumn still lie strown,
Art thou not dearer in Spring's first prime
Than the fairest rose of the Summer time?
Thus in her pathway of joy and light,
Away from the idle gazer's sight,
'T is meet that Beauty should pass her hour,
Lonely and modest, like thee, sweet flower!

P. BENJAMIN.

THE GROUND LAUREL.

I love thee, pretty nuraling
 Of vernal sun and rain,
For thou art Flora's firstling,
 And leadest in her train.

When far away I found thee,
 It was an April morn:
The chilling blast blew round thee,
 No bud had decked the thorn.

And thou alone wert hiding
 The mossy rocks between,
Where, just below them gliding,
 The Merrimack was seen.

And while my hand was brushing
 The seary leaves from thee,
It seemed that thou wert blushing,
 To be disclosed to me.

Thou didst reward my ramble,
 By shining at my feet,
When, over brake and bramble,
 I sought thy lone retreat;

As some sweet flower of pleasure
 Upon our path may bloom,
Mid rocks and thorns that measure
 Our journey to the tomb.

Miss H. F. Gould.

THE LILY OF THE VALLEY.

I had found out a sweet green spot,
Where a Lily was blooming fair;
The din of the city disturbed it not,
But the spirit that shades the quiet cot
With its wings of love was there.

I found that Lily's bloom,
When the day was dark and chill;
It smiled like a star in a misty gloom,
And it sent abroad a soft perfume,
Which is floating around me still.

I sat by the Lily's bell,
And watched it many a day;
The leaves, that rose in a flowing swell,
Grew faint and dim, then drooped and fell,
And the flower had flown away.

I looked where the leaves were laid,
In withering paleness by,
And, as gloomy thoughts stole on me, said,
There is many a sweet and blooming maid,
Who will soon as dimly die.

PERCIVAL.

NIGHT-BLOWING CEREUS.

Strange flower! Oh, beautifully strange!
Why, in the lonely night,
And to the quiet watching stars,
Spread'st thou thy petals white?

There 's sleep among the breathing flowers,
The folded leaves all rest—
Child, butterfly, and bee, are hushed—
The wood-bird 's in its nest.

Thou wak'st alone of earth's bright things,
A silent watch is thine,
Offering thy incense, votive gift!
Unto night's starry shrine.

Morn glows, and thou art gone for aye,
As bow of summer cloud;
Like thy sister flower of Araby,*
Thou unto death hast bowed.

Once flowering, wilt thou never more
Give thy pale beauty back?
O, canst thou not thy fragrance pour
Upon the sunbeam's track?

* Gum Cistus of Arabia, which sheds its flowers as soon as they are blown.

Thou flower of summer's starlit night,
When whispering farewell,
Bear'st thou a hope from this dim world
Mid brighter things to dwell?

Thou hast unsealed my thought's deep fount,
My hope as thine shall be,
And my heart's incense I will breathe
To Heaven, bright flower, with thee.

ANON.

THE CROCUS' SOLILOQUY.

Down in my solitude, under the snow,
Where nothing cheering can reach me;
Here without light to see how to grow,
I 'll trust to Nature to teach me.

I will not despair, nor be idle, nor frown,
Locked in so gloomy a dwelling;
My leaves shall run up, and my roots shall run down,
While the bud in my bosom is swelling.

Soon as the frost will get out of my bed,
From this cold dungeon to free me,
I will peer up with my little bright head,
And all will be joyful to see me.

Then from my heart will young petals diverge,
As rays of the sun from their focus;
I from the darkness of earth will emerge,
A happy and beautiful Crocus!

Gaily arrayed in my yellow and green,
When to their view I have risen,
Will they not wonder how one so serene
Came from so dismal a prison?

Many, perhaps, from so simple a flower
 This little lesson may borrow—
Patient to-day, through its gloomiest hour,
 We come out the brighter to-morrow.

Miss H. F. Gould.

TO A WITHERED ROSE.

Pale flower — pale, fragile, faded flower,
What tender recollections swell,
What thoughts of deep and thrilling power
Are kindled at thy mystic spell?

A charm is in thy faint perfume,
To call up visions of the past,
Which, through my mind's o'ershadowing gloom,
"Rush like the rare stars, dim and fast."

And loveliest shines that evening hour,
More dear by time and sorrow made,
When thou wert culled, ("Love's token-flower!")
And on my throbbing bosom laid.

Sweet thoughts and hallowed sympathies,
That shun the hours of worldly jar,
Unfold beneath the silent skies,
Like flowers that love the evening star.

And fancy, that, supine and dull,
Slumbers on folded wings all day,
Then waking, wild and beautiful,
Soars like the unprisoned bird away.

On eve's pale brow, one star burned bright,
Like heavenward hope, whose soothing dream
Is veiled from pleasure's dazzled sight,
To shine on sorrow's diadem.

A lingering halo in the west
Poured golden hues o'er tower and tree;
But loveliest did its radiance rest,
With tenderest beam, sweet flower, on thee.

Bright as the tears by beauty wept,
The dew-drops on thy petals lay,
Till evening's silver winds had swept
Thy cheek, and kissed them all away.

They waved the wild flowers on the hill,
And pilfered from their balmy store,
Caught freshness from the murmuring rill,
And sighed along its reedy shore.

But 't was not zephyrs, fraught with balm,
Nor the rich gloom of evening skies,
Which lent that scene its deathless charm,
A well-spring of sweet memories.

It chanced that Love's wild wandering wing
A moment hovered near the earth,
Touched of my heart some trembling string,
And called the hidden music forth.

Earth hath not — oh! hath heaven?—so sweet
A charm, as that once only known,
When first affection's accents greet
The ear that drinks their thrilling tone?

Alas! this pledge of early love —
Now emblem of its faded beam —
Seems the sole relic left to prove
That all was not a blissful dream.

Long years have passed, pale, faded flower,
And life, like thee, hath lost its bloom;
But still the memory of that hour
Survives like thine own faint perfume.

Oh, early love, too fair thou art
For earth — too beautiful and pure —
Fast fade thy day-dreams from the heart,
But all thy waking woes endure.

ANON.

TO THE HOUSTONIA CERULEA.

How often, modest flower,
I mark thy tender blossoms, where they spread,
Along the turfy slope, their starry bed,
Hung with the heavy shower.

Thou comest in the dawn
Of Nature's promise, when the sod of May
Is speckled with its earliest array,
And strewest with bloom the lawn.

'T is but a few brief days
I saw the green hill in its fold of snow;
But now thy slender stems arise and blow,
In April's fitful rays.

I love thee, delicate
And humble as thou art; thy dress of white,
And blue, and all the tints where these unite,
Or wrapped in spiral plait.

Or to the glancing sun,
Shining through chequered clouds, and dewy shower,
Unfolding thy fair cross. Yes, tender flower,
Thy blended colours run,

And meet in harmony,
Commingling, like the rainbow-tints; thy urn
Of yellow rises with a graceful turn,
And as a golden eye,

Its softly swelling throat
Shines in the centre of thy circle, where
Thy downy stigma rises slim and fair,
And catches as they float,

A cloud of living air,
The atom seeds of fertilizing dust,
That hover, as thy lurking anthers burst,
And, O! how purely there

Thy snowy circle, rayed
With crosslets, bends its pearly whiteness round,
And how thy spreading lips are trimly bound
With such a mellow shade,

As in the vaulted blue,
Deepens at starry midnight, or grows pale,
When mantled in the full moon's slender veil,
That calm ethereal hue.

I love thee, modest flower!
And I do find it happiness to tread
With careful steps along thy studded bed,
At morning's freshest hour;

Or when the day declines,
And evening comes with dewy footsteps on,
And now, his golden hall of slumber won,
The setting sun resigns

His empire of the sky,
And the cool breeze awakes her flattering train;
I walk through thy parterres, and not in vain,
For to my downward eye,

Sweet flower! thou tellest how hearts
As pure and tender as thy leaf, as low
And humble as thy stem, will surely know
The joy that peace imparts.

PERCIVAL.

TO A WHITE CHRYSANTHEMUM.

Fair gift of friendship! and her ever bright
And faultless image! welcome now thou art,
In thy pure loveliness, thy robes of white,
Speaking a moral to the feeling heart;
Unscathed by heats — by wintry blasts unmoved,
Thy strength thus tested, and thy charm improved.

Emblem of innocence, which fearless braves
Life's dreariest scenes, its rudest storm derides,
And floats as calmly on o'er troubled waves,
As where the peaceful streamlet smoothly glides;
Thou 'rt blooming now, as beautiful and clear
As other blossoms do when Spring is here.

Symbol of hope, still banishing the gloom,
Hung o'er the mind by stern December's reign;
Thou cheer'st the fancy by thy steady bloom,
With thoughts of Summer and the fertile plain,
Calling a thousand visions into play,
Of beauty redolent, and bright as May.

Type of a true and holy love; the same
Through every scene that clouds life's varied page;

Mid grief, mid gladness, spell of every dream,
Tender in youth, and strong in feeble age!
The peerless picture of a modest wife,
Thou bloom'st the fairest mid the frost of life.

ANON.

A FLOWER FROM MOUNT VERNON.

Bright blossom! that hast breath'd the air
 Around our hero's tomb —
What do the night-winds murmur there,
 When skies are wrapped in gloom?
A dirge above the sleeping one,
 Of giant heart and arm?
Above a race of glory run,
 Whose memory has a charm
To thrill young hearts, and lift them up
To thirst for glory's gilded cup?

Sheds not the moon, in radiance there,
 A brighter, holier light?
Look not the stars, with smile more fair,
 From off the brow of night?
Send not the dews, which bathe that steep,
 A fragrant incense round,
As they were sacred tears, to weep
 O'er fame that death has crown'd?
Didst thou not bow thy head, bright gem
Of Nature's peerless diadem,
O'er him who sleeps in glory there,
Beneath a nation's grateful prayer?

MRS. L. P. SMITH.

THE ALPINE FLOWERS.

Meek dwellers mid yon terror-stricken cliffs!
With brows so pure, and incense-breathing lips,
Whence are ye? Did some white-winged messenger,
On Mercy's missions, trust your timid germ
To the cold cradle of eternal snows,
Or, breathing on the callous icicles,
Bid them with tear-drops nurse ye?
Tree nor shrub
Dares that drear atmosphere; no polar pine
Uprears a veteran front; yet there ye stand,
Leaning your cheeks against the thick-ribbed ice,
And looking up with brilliant eyes to Him
Who bids you bloom unblanched amid the waste
Of desolation. Man, who, panting, toils
O'er slippery steeps, or, trembling, treads the verge
Of yawning gulfs, o'er which the headlong plunge
Into eternity, looks shuddering up,
And marks you in your placid loveliness —
Fearless, yet frail — and, clasping his chill hands,
Blesses your pencilled beauty. Mid the pomp
Of mountain summits rushing to the sky,
And, chaining the rapt soul in breathless awe,
He bows to bind you drooping to his breast,
Inhales your spirit from the frost-winged gale,
And freer dreams of heaven.

MRS. SIGOURNEY.

THE THREE FLOWERS.

A Tulip blossomed one morning in May,
By the side of a sanded alley;
Its leaves were dressed in a rich array,
Like the clouds at the earliest dawn of day,
When the mist rolls over the valley.
The dew had descended the night before,
And lay in its velvet bosom,
And its spreading urn was flowing o'er,
And the crystal heightened the tints it bore
On its yellow and crimson blossom.

A sweet red rose, on its bending thorn,
Its bud was newly spreading,
And the flowing effulgence of early morn
Its beams on its breast was shedding;
The petals were heavy with dripping tears,
That twinkled in pearly brightness,
And the thrush in its covert filled my ears
With a varied song of lightness.

A lily, in mantle of purest snow,
Hung over a silent fountain,
And the wave in its calm and quiet flow
Displayed its silken leaves below,
Like the drift on the windy mountain:

It bowed with the moisture, the night had wept
When the stars shone over the billow,
And white-winged spirits their vigils kept,
Where beauty and innocence sweetly slept
On its pure and thornless pillow.

PERCIVAL.

THE FLOWER ANGELS.

As delicate form as thine, my love,
And beauty like thine have the angels above;
Yet man cannot see them, though often they come,
On visits to earth, from their native home;
Thou ne'er wilt behold them, but if thou wouldst know
The houses in which (when they wander below),
The angels are fondest of passing their hours,
I 'll tell thee, Fair Lady, they dwell in the flowers!

Each flower, as it blossoms, expands to a tent,
For the house of a visiting angel meant;
From his flight o'er the earth he may there find repose,
Till again to the vast tent of heaven he goes.
And the angel his dwelling-place keeps in repair,
As every good man of his mansion takes care:
All around he adorns it, and carpets it well,
And much he's delighted within it to dwell.

True sunshine of gold, from the orb of day
He borrows, his roof with the beams to inlay:
All the hues of each season to aid him he calls,
And with them he tinges his chamber walls,
His bread he bakes from the flower's fine meal,
So mingled that hunger he never may feel:
He brews from the dew-drop a draught fresh and good,
And every thing does which a housekeeper should.

And greatly the flowers, as they open, rejoice
That they are the home of the angel's choice;
But, O, when to heaven the angel ascends,
The flower falls asunder, the stalk sadly bends!
If thou, my dear Lady, in truth art inclined
The spirits of heaven beside thee to find,
Make Nature thy study, companion, and lover,
And, trust me, the angels around thee will hover.

A flower do but place near thy window glass,
And through it no image of evil can pass.
Abroad must thou go — on thy white bosom wear
A nosegay, and doubt not an angel is there.
Forget not to water, at break of the day,
The lilies, and thou shalt be fairer than they.
Place a rose near thy bed, nightly sentry to keep,
And angels shall rock thee on roses to sleep.

No vision of terror approaches the bed,
When his watch the angel around it has spread;
And whatever bright fancy thy guardian to thee
Permits to come in, very good it shall be.
When thus thou art kept by a heavenly spell,
Shouldst thou, now and then, dream that I love thee right well,
Be sure that with fervour and truth I adore thee,
Or an angel had ne'er set mine image before thee.

L. BANCROFT. *(Translated from the German.)*

THE DEATH OF THE FLOWERS.

The melancholy days are come, the saddest of the year,
Of wailing winds and naked woods, and meadows brown and sere.
Heaped in the hollow of the grove, the withered leaves lie dead;
They rustle to the eddying gust, and to the rabbit's tread.
The robin and the wren are flown, and from the shrub the jay,
And from the wood-top calls the crow, through all the gloomy day.

Where are the flowers, the young fair flowers, that lately sprung and stood,
In brighter light and softer airs, a beauteous sisterhood?
Alas! they all are in their graves; the gentle race of flowers
Are lying in their lowly beds, with the fair and good of our's.
The rain is falling where they lie; but the cold November rain
Calls not, from out the gloomy earth, the lovely ones again.

The wind-flower and the violet, they perished long ago,
And the wild-rose and the orchis died, amid the summer glow;
But on the hill the golden rod, and the aster in the wood,
And the yellow sunflower by the brook, in autumn beauty stood,
Till fell the frost from the clear, cold heaven, as falls the plague on men,
And the brightness of their smile was gone, from upland, glade, and glen.

And now, when comes the calm, mild day, as still such days will come,
To call the squirrel and the bee from out their winter home;
When the sound of dropping nuts is heard, though all the trees are still,
And twinkle in the smoky light the waters of the rill,
The south wind searches for the flowers, whose fragrance late he bore,
And sighs to find them in the wood, and by the streams no more.

And then I think of one who in her youthful beauty died,
The fair meek blossom that grew up, and faded by my side:

In the cold moist earth we laid her, when the forest
cast the leaf,
And we wept that one so lovely should have a life so
brief;
Yet not unmeet it was that one, like that young friend
of our's,
So gentle and so beautiful, should perish with the
flowers.

BRYANT.

THE END.

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